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GOOD-BYE, SWEET DAY.

BY CELIA THAXTER.

Good-bye, sweet day, good-bye!
I have so loved thee, but I cannot hold thee,
Departing like a dream, the shadows fold thee;
Slowly thy perfect beauty fades away;
Good-bye, sweet day!

Good-bye, sweet day, good-bye!
Dear were thy golden hours of tranquil splendor,
Sadly thou yieldest to the evening tender,
Who wert so fair from thy first morning ray!
Good-bye, sweet day!

Good-bye, sweet day, good-bye!
Thy glow and charm, thy smiles and tones and glances
Vanish at last, and solemn night advances.
Ah, couldst thou yet a little longer stay!
Good-bye, sweet day!

Good-bye, sweet day, good-bye!
All thy rich gifts my grateful heart remembers,
The while I watch thy sunset's smoldering embers
Die in the west beneath the twilight gray.
Good-bye, sweet day!

—[Scribner.

THE SAFEGUARD.

BY ELIZABETH W. DENISON.

A baby crept to his father's knee,
And was lifted up and lulled to rest,
Till the blue eyes closed, so tired was he,
And his little head fell peacefully
At ease on the ready shoulder there,
While the baby hand, so soft and fair,
Lay like a shield on his father's breast.

Of old 'twas said that when men drew near
To fierce temptation or deadly strife,
And lost their way in a maze of fear,
Or periled their souls for worldly gear,
By a way unknown an angel hand
Would lead them out of the dangerous land,
Into the light of a nobler life.

The story is true for the world today;
We see no white-robed angels mild;
But out of the dark and perilous way
Where men and women forget to pray,
Into the peace of a purer land
They are led by a gentle, shielding hand,
The hand of a little helpless child.

—[Sunday Afternoon.

RUTH'S FLIRTATION.

BY MARY KYLE DALLAS.

Before Ruth Pennington accepted Dr. Howard she had certainly flirted with Ralph Barlow, and he had some reason to be angry and indignant, but he should have been man enough to let the girl alone, and cease from absurd and unavailing reproaches. However, he was not; and day by day, hour by hour, she lived in dread of him, never knowing when she might meet his scowling face in the village street, or what sweet hour he might poison with those angry accusations, which were all the more bitter for being in a measure true.

However, Ruth's friends upheld her, for Harry Howard was a fine fellow, whose antecedents every one knew—his father, the favorite physician of the place before him; his married sister, Mrs. Marchmont, the being who dazzled their eyes with bonnets and dresses absolutely just from Paris; while old Mrs. Howard was the Lady Bountiful of the place, dispensed flannels to the poor, hunted up starving negroes and children going to the dogs for want of education, and gave them bread and schooling, and headed contributions for superannuated clergymen and widows who had seen better days.

A really respected family were the Howards, and Ralph Barlow was just no one knew who—a fellow who seemed to have money enough, but who, for all that, was without any introduction whatever. Handsome, too; but not the man people wanted to see dangling after their girls, and when Ruth had that flirtation with him she led a terrible life at home.

No girl likes to be scolded and preached to and threatened by those who are her guardians, and doubtless this influenced Ruth no little; now all was so smooth and easy; and like most grave men, Dr. Howard had more in him than appeared on the surface, and made a fonder and more attentive lover than she had hoped. She loved him now, and her fleeting fancy for Ralph was quite a thing of the past. The wedding day was fixed, the wedding dress nearly done, and Ruth would have been perfectly happy but for Ralph's haunting. Knowing that she had once given him reason to think she liked him—indeed, knowing that she had—she could not use him as she would another, and complain of him to her father or brother; and the last time he had crossed her path, he had caught her by the arm and held her fast, and told her that she must either break with Dr. Howard or take the consequences. "You shall never marry him, Ruth," he said, "never" and this time Ruth, who had before only wept and trembled, defied him.

"I'm not afraid of you, Ralph," said she, "I'll have a protector soon, who will put an end to your threats, and punish you for annoying me."

"Don't talk of him to me, girl," cried Ralph, and he caught her by the wrist and held her so that for a moment she quite understood how powerless a woman is in the hands of a strong man, and they were alone far from any house, with thick trees on one side and a babbling brook on the other.

But he dropped the hand again and folded his hands and laughed.

Little fool," said he.

"Great brute, to try to frighten me," she cried, and sped away. After that she would never go far alone.

Two days at last between the present and her wedding eve, when, after dark, as she sat upon the porch waiting for her lover, and hoping that none of those calls that often carried the doctor miles away when he least desired it would keep him from her this evening, a small boy ran up the garden path and addressed her.

"You're Miss Ruth Pennington, ain't you?"

"Yes," she said, "I am."

"Then," said he, "the doctor is outside in his carriage, and he says he wants you to ride with him, and he can't leave his horse. "Won't you put on your hat and come? he says."

"Tell him I'll be there in a moment," says Ruth, and ran into the room where her mother sat.

"I'm going out to ride with Harry, ma" said she, and catching up a hat and shawl that lay upon a lounge, stood before the mirror to put them on.

"Nobody will see you to night," said Mrs. Pennington. "What a night it is for a ride—dark as pitch!"

"Not on the road, ma," said Ruth, and hurried off.

But it was dark—so dark that after the streak of light from the lamp in the parlor had ended, she could literally see nothing. She found the latch of the garden gate by feeling for it, and stepped outside. There under the poplars, stood a dark object, a sort of silhouette of carriage, horse and driver, all in one piece. She approached it; a hand met hers, and helped her in.

"Oh, how dark it is, I can't see you, Harry," she said.

Then the hand went around her waist and drew her close. It was no unwonted thing, and surely it was right for a promised wife to yield to the embrace—and nestle her head on the broad shoulder.

"I suppose it will be lighter on the road," said she.

The answer was that little unspellable sound that people use for the affirmative when they do not want to speak—and the carriage dashed away furiously.

"Why do you drive so fast, Harry?" she asked, as they whirled through the village, the window-lights flashing past them—as it semmed—each a blurred star, no more. "The horse is not running away, dear?"

"The arm tightened about her, but no word was spoken.

"Why don't you say anything, Harry?" she said. "I'm frightened. Nothing has happened?"

"Nothing," was answered, in a sort of whisper.

"But I know something has," said she. "You never behaved so before. I am trembling, Harry, feel how I tremble. I am cold all over. Harry, please speak." Still the carriage whirled on—still there was silence, and now the village was passed. They were alone on a lonely road, and faster and faster still they drove on. The thought that her betrothed lover had suddenly gone mad thrust itself like a stab into Ruth's heart. Oh, if she could but see his face.

"Harry," she said, falteringly, "Harry, won't you go back now? It is so dark. I'm tired of driving, Harry."

Suddenly he bent toward her.

"Kiss me," said he.

She lifted up her lips. As she did so, straining her eyes toward his face, the black clouds overhead suddenly parted, and from between them peeped the moon at her full; and Ruth saw by the white and ghastly light the face of Ralph Barlow.

It was he who sat beside her. She understood quite well how she had been tricked. She was miles from home and in his power. He had fulfilled his threat of vengeance.

"So, you are surprised," said he with a laugh. "Come, make up your mind to it. I was good enough for you once. You have kissed me before, lassie. 'All's fair in love and war,' you know. I'll not make you a bad husband. I love you, my dear, or I'd never have done this. So good-bye to the doctor."

"Ralph Barlow, I hate you," cried Ruth. "If I was fool enough to like you once, I hate you now. I'll say no. I'll tell the minister you carried me off. What a fool you are, to think a girl can be married without her consent. Take me back at once. I'm to marry Dr. Howard on Wednesday.

"Indeed," said Ralph. "Reflect a moment. You will then have been away with me two days. I scarcely think Dr. Howard will want a wife who has been away with another man two days. I think by that time you will be quite willing to say yes. Come, once you liked the notion. Those steady going Yankee parents chose the doctor for you—that's all. We'll have a merry life together, plenty of money, jolly times. Come, make up your mind to it."

"Harry will think I played him false," said Ruth. "Harry will believe me such a wicked girl."

"Just so," said Ralph.

"And mother and father!" moaned Ruth. "Oh, Ralph, take me back home, and I'll pray for you every night of my life!"

"I'd rather you would kiss me every day," said Ralph. "No; I'll never go back with you!"

Then he drove on faster than before; and though Ruth uttered scream after scream, and strove in her despair to cast herself into the road, the cries spent themselves on empty air, and the strong arm around her waist made her struggles utterly useless.

At last she ceased to cry out, and sat perfectly quiet; but it was not, as Ralph supposed, that she had yielded to fate. She was watching intensely for the next house that they would pass, hoping that some one would hear the desperate screams that she would utter.

At last she saw it—a square white building in the upper windows of which a light burned brightly, for there people watched by one who suffered. Beside the bed sat the husband, holding the hand of the wife whom he feared that he must lose, but who was now in safety. At the foot the physician ready to depart, happy in the good work that he had done.

"Good-bye until to-morrow," he said. "I think you will sleep well to-night, dear lady."

"Good-bye, Dr. Howard, said the gentleman, grasping his hand. "I'm sorry you have such a long lonely ride before you."

Then Dr. Howard ran down stairs and out to his carriage. A stout Irishman stood holding the reins.

"God bless your honor," he said. "They tell me you have saved missus' life, no less."

"With God's help, I nave done something," said the physician. "Well, others are as late as I upon the road, Pat."

"Yis, and—the Lord save us, what's that?"

For, as the man was about to answer, a woman leaned from the little buggy that flew past and uttered a terrible cry of "Help—save me! Help—save me!"

"It's a rale throubble, or jest some desolute craythur making disturbance!" said Pat.

"It is real terror," said the doctor—"Come, Pat—into the wagon with me and after them."

"I'm not afraid," said Pat; "but doc-ther, dear, we might get into a tough scrimmage."

"Well, you'd like that, Pat," said the doctor.

"But they say your bride is waitin' you docther, dear," said Pat. "And 'tisn't a broken head or nose you'd like to take to the weddin."

The doctor gave one thought to Ruth; then, "For her sake all women," said he, and they were flying after the other carriage. The chase was not long; their horse was fresh; the other weary.

In fifteen minutes they were side by side.

"Who cried for help?" said the doctor.

A struggling form in the carriage stretched out its hand to him.

"Harry! Harry!" she cried.

"It is Ruth!" shouted the doctor; and then he had clutched the reins, and the man in the other carriage arose to his feet.

"Let go your hold!" he shouted. "I am armed!"

A pistol flashed in the moonlight, which shone still, though dimly.

"He will kill you, Harry!" cried Ruth.

"Yes, by heaven!" yelled Ralph Barlow, "I will!"

The Irishman, undaunted, had sprung to the horses' heads.

"I cant hold them much longer, yer honor," he cried; "they're mad—the both of them."

Then there was the sound of a pistol—a blaze—the smoke of gunpowder—and Ruth fainted away.

When she recovered, Dr. Howard held her in his arms, and the Irishman stood near, rubbing his head and looking utterly bewildered.

There was no sound of either of the horses. On the firing of the pistol, both had run away, but by this time Dr. Howard was on the ground, and had clutched Ruth about the waist. They were thrown to the earth, and the bullet had grazed the doctor's cheek, and cut the ribbon of Ruth's hat in two, but otherwise they were unhurt.

The Irishman had been knocked senseless by a kick from one of the horses, and what had become of Ralph Barlow was not known.

A few hours afterwards he was found dead among the debris of his carriage, his dead horse beside him at the foot of a precipice past which the road wound half a mile further on.

Poor Ruth conscience-stricken, and shaken in every nerve, really felt as though it would be wrong that she should play the role of bride so soon; but the doctor stood firm and claimed her on the proper day, and her wild ride through the night, and the terrible scene that followed it, seems almost a dream to her now when she recalls it. Only no daughter of Ruth Howards will ever flirt, if she can help it.

Flirtation, says Ruth, is nothing less than a crime.—*N. Y. Ledger.*

HOW TOM BECAME A CONGRESSMAN.

A BOY'S STORY.

There was a little fellow among the New England hills, years ago, as there are many now, whose parents were poor. He could not remember the time when he wore shoes and stockings in the summer. Sometimes in the winter, when he was obliged to walk three miles to school, and wade through snowdrifts that did not melt until the last of May, he did wear such as his father had rejected, and a pair of shoes that slipped up and down every step he took. Nevertheless, they were shoes and stockings; and he was infinitely prouder of them than any king living is of his crown.

One day, as Tom was plodding along with his old slip-shod shoes, puffing from exertion and blowing his blue fingers to keep them warm, there came dashing down the hill a sleigh such as the youngster had never seen; no, indeed, nor even dreamed of. And the horse! Tom stopped blowing, so intense was his admiration of the elegant creature that came foaming and tossing its daintily arched neck right and left.

Tom sprang aside at the very last moment, and as he sank up to his chin in the light snow, tore off his old cloth cap from his head, and bobbed up and down as if he was in the presence of the President.

"Jump on behind, my lad," shouted the rider; "jump on behind." And Tom did jump on at the peril of his life, and away they went, tearing along with great speed until over went the sleigh, and out went riders and buffaloes, and things generally.

Tom sprang to the horse's head, and clinging to the bit, the tips of his great cowhide shoes touching the snow, asked if the gentleman was hurt.

"Not a bit of it, my lad!" said he, shaking himself free of the snow; "only warmed up a little. What's the damage?"

"Nothing, sir, that I see," returned Tom, his handsome face glowing with good humor as he yielded the horse to its owner.

"Well then, my lad, get in, and we'll try again. You are going to school, I see," added the stranger, as he gathered up the reins.

"Yes, sir."

"How far?"

"Guess it is about two miles from here."

The gentleman turned and looked into his face, and then glanced all over Tom's figure, even to his feet.

"He sees my shoes," thought Tom, proudly, to himself, giving his feet a shove forward to make certain that they should be seen.

The gentleman did see them, and smiled in spite of himself as he glanced to Tom's face.

He then kindly pulled the warm furs around the boy, and pulling his cap over his eyes, shouted, "Go along, Nell!" And the chestnut mare, now thoroughly sobered, meekly commenced the ascent of what was known thereabouts as the long hill. She was evidently accustomed to having her own way, for she availed herself of every little chance to rest, and did not allow herself to be pressed forward until the whip was applied.

Tom wondered what had possessed the creature a few minutes before. He scratched his head on the right side and then on the left, and finally, his Yankee curiosity getting the better of his diffidence, he asked:

"If you please, sir, what was it that made the mare run?"

"A stump," returned the gentleman, with a smile. "Nell is a little aristocratic, and shies at all such plebian things. She does not know that a stump was the making of her master."

Tom scratched his head again, and wriggled all over. Then out came the question:

"How could a stump be the making of a man?"

"My lad," answered the stranger, marking the white surface of the snow gently with his whiplash, "I was a poor boy, and my father could not afford to send me to school. We worked very hard, but I used to study evenings by the light of the fire, and learned the whole of the Latin grammar by the light of one pitch knot."

For a moment Tom sat perfectly still. Then he asked, as if ashamed of his ignorance:

"Please, sir, what's a Latin grammar?"

This last question aroused the gentleman, and becoming sensible that the little fellow at his side was thirsting for knowledge, he very kindly went over such parts of his history as he thought would be of interest to him, and ended by saying that he was a member of Congress.

The last announcement almost took the lad's breath away. He had heard of members of Congress, but he had an idea that they were myths, whom nobody ever saw. Perhaps the awe with which Tom regarded him as he glanced up sideways into his face flattered the gentleman, for he said, smiling:

"You are just as likely to be a member of Congress as I! You know, in America, success is to the determined and brave. If you study as I did, you may possibly rise as high—yes—perhaps higher!"

"But I haven't any Latin grammar, sir," said Tom.

"No? Well, would you like one?"

"Yes, sir!" cried Tom, with flashing eyes.

"Well, my lad, I shall come this way again, and I will leave one at the schoolhouse for you."

"But I haven't any money."

"Never mind, you can pay me when you get to Congress."

"Thank you," said Tom, "I won't forget it, sir."

The gentleman looked down at him with a quizzical smile, and the two rode on in silence until they reached the schoolhouse.

"Please don't forget the grammar," suggested Tom, as he lifted the old cap again.

"Not I," returned the gentleman,—"a man who cannot keep a promise should not make one—hey, my lad?"

Nell tossed her head, and the boy soon lost sight of the driver. Then he looked down at his shoes, at his coat, and at his old cap as he hung it on the peg in the entry, and silently contrasted them with the fur-trimmed overcoat and outfit of the stranger. "Never mind," said Tom to himself, "I will have them too, when I am a member of Congress."

At the end of two weeks, a bundle of books was left at the school-house. There was not only a Latin grammar, but a well-worn copy of Virgil, Esop's Fables, and sundry other volumes such as Tom had never seen.

Pine knots were plentiful where Tom lived, and he sat up until midnight all the rest of the winter, pondering over the mysteries of those books.

As good luck would have it, the schoolmaster, who boarded around with his pupils, had not eaten the rations due him at Tom's father's. When he arrived, he entered warmly into the lad's ambitious projects, and as he had a smattering of Latin himself, was qualified to aid his pupil.

Although the schoolmaster was allowed the use of a tallow candle, he vastly preferred the more brilliant light of Tom's pitch knot; so that, as often as the long winter evening set in, the master and pupil might be seen (and were seen) sitting before the fireplace with their heads buried in the pages of the books, along which they plodded slowly, but to such purpose that at the end of the winter Tom could read his fable and solve his problem in a manner very creditable to himself and master.

It was up-hill work with poor Tom, but he never lost what little he gained, and managed to make what little he accomplished to tell on the future.

One day his father brought home a stranger, and told Tom that he was apprenticed, during his minority, to this man, who would make him a blacksmith.

"But I am not going to be a blacksmith!" cried Tom, in a passion; "I'm going to Congress!"

"The more need that you should learn to shoe the horse that carries you there," replied the father, with a shrug.

Tom packed up his worldly goods, not forgetting his books, and trudged away to a distant village, where he pared horses' hoofs by day, and studied and read at night by stealth, for he was allowed neither knot nor candle.

Six months the poor fellow was faithful to his duty; but one night, when his master had thrown his grammar into the fire, and lathed him for his disobedience, Tom took leave of the workshop. He made his way, barefooted as he was, over bogs and briars, until he ventured into the main road, and by dint of begging a ride now and then, reached the city, where—as Ben Franklin had done before him—with his roll under his arm, he sought and obtained employment.

Perhaps the happiest day of Tom's life was when he found himself in the antiquarian bookstore with plenty of leisure, plenty of books, and nothing to fear from friend or foe. It was wonderful how he read—and read! The parched earth does not more greedily take the summer rain!

When his intellectual thirst was partially satisfied, he began his work. He saw the ladder up which he must climb, and seizing the lowest round, he made his way steadily upward. We all know by what steps an ambitious man makes progress—by patient toil—by self-denial—by courteous department—by the constant acquisition of knowledge.

Years passed by, during all of which Tom had looked in vain for his early friend, the stranger. In his timid awkwardness, he had not thought to ask the name of his benefactor, and the only opportunity to do so had been lost.

Well, years slid away, and Tom was elected member of Congress from the very county where he spent his struggling boyhood. He went to Washington, not in cowhide shoes and butternut-colored homespun, but dressed something as imagination had pictured, as he looked after his benefactor on the eventful day of the sleigh-ride. A nobler looking man, the ladies in the galleries said, never had appeared upon the floor than this Yankee member, who, if he spoke through his nose, always drove his arrows home to the mark.

One day there appeared in the House the venerable form of an ex-member, whom all present delighted to honor. It needed but one glance at that genial face for Tom to recognize the giver of the Latin grammar. "He had come," he said, "to listen to the gentleman who had so manfully defended the right, and to wish him Godspeed!"

"If," said Tom with his old modesty, "if it has been my good fortune to do anything for our country in the hour of her peril, I owe my ability to do so, in a great measure, to yourself."

"To me!" echoed the astonished gentleman; "to me! I do not recollect ever having had the pleasure of meeting you before in my life."

"Ah, sir, have you forgotten, then, the little school-boy among the hills of New Hampshire, to whom you so kindly sold a Latin grammar?"

The gentleman mused.

"Sold—sold a Latin grammar! Now that you recall the incident, I do recollect a little fellow that interested me, and to whom I gave some school-books."

"Well, sir, I am that boy. You told me that I might pay for them when I got to Congress. If you will honor me by meeting a few friends at dinner I will settle the bill."—*Household.*

AN INTERVIEW WITH A WIFE-BEATER.

[From the St. Louis Republican.]

A scene not of the goody-goody order, but one to rejoice the heart of a manly man, took place recently in the counting-room of a well-known business concern. One of the workmen about the place was a man of Boston, who came to the city some time ago with his wife. After a time he neglected her, and neglect was followed by something worse, the poor woman sometimes not seeing him for days together, and suffering when he did come home from his brutality, absolute bodily violence becoming a feature of his treatment of her. Finally, one day, there was a sad scene. The husband came home in an especially ugly mood, and concluded his inhumanity on the occasion by beating the woman terribly. Sick of body, as at heart, she wrote to her brother in the East an account of her sufferings.

Soon there appeared in the counting-room of the establishment named, a stranger of determined aspect, well-knit frame, a countenance that betokened intelligence and health. A timid, trembling woman accompanied him, and slightly held back as he walked up to the counter and inquired for the Bostonian in low, calm tones.

"He isn't in just now, but I guess he'll be here in about half an hour," was the reply. "Did you want to see him particularly?"

"Well, yes. To tell you the truth, I've come 1,400 miles to see him. Time doesn't hang very heavy on my hands, so I'll wait. He's a professional wife-beater, and he married my sister," with a gesture toward the shrinking form by his side.

The stranger waited a short half hour, at the expiration of which the Bostonian appeared. He took in the situation at a glance, and started quickly for the basement to go about his business, without offering to stop or notice the couple who were awaiting him. The stranger intercepted him, however, and laid a hand on his coat lappel, saying at the same time in soft tones, "wait a minute." as the stranger's hand closed on the woolen the front of the garment suddenly creased and wrinkled and curled up in ridges and flutings, behind which the shiny buttons slunk out of sight and hid themselves for shame. The stranger held his grip and spoke his little piece. It was couched in all the bitter, stinging terms that the Saxon vocabulary possesses, but not one word of vulgarity or profanity passed his lips. Every expression of contempt that might rouse the spirit of an honorable man was lavished upon the recreant husband with a playful bountifulness that aroused the wonder of the bystanders. When the stranger was done with his oration he waited a moment for a retort, but the man with the rumpled coat front stood in white-faced cowering silence. The scene was painful to look at. The stranger remarked that his sister had been allowed about $3 a week to run the household on, while her husband was spending ten times that amount on riotous living He thought it was time for that to be changed at once. He wrote out an order for the balance of salary due the husband, and, holding it toward him, said:

"There's a paper for you to sign."

"I'll not sign it," was the reply.

"There's a paper for you to sign."

"Well, I'll not sign it."

"I tell you just for once, there's a paper for you to sign."

There was a moment's pause, in which the two men looked at each other, then the words came low and faltering, "I haven't any pencil."

The stranger accommodatingly furnished one and the paper was signed and handed to the wife.

Another tirade began, and the proprietor of the establishment coming up, the stranger apologized for the scene he was making. "But," said he, "he whipped my sister, and I've come 1,400 miles to see him."

"Take him outside," said the proprietor, "we have no more use for him here."

So the stranger walked him up to the bank, where he had $100 on deposit, and persuaded him to draw it out. Then he left him, merely remarking: "I may give you a whipping yet before I leave town, but you are such a pitiful, white-livered cur that when I look at you I can't find the heart to strike you."

The sister will go east with her brother, and will be well cared for. The husband will do well if he escapes the penalty of a criminal prosecution. A witness to the scene remarked that "it was the prettiest case of big brother you ever saw."

WINTER FASHIONS.

MIDWINTER STYLES IN DRESSES, WRAPS, HATS AND BONNETS.—ET CETERAS OF DRESS AND FASHION.

[Messrs. Ehrich & Co. of New York, the publishers of Ehrich's Fashion Quarterly, have kindly placed at our service the following notes on the Winter Fashions of 1879-8, compiled from advance sheets of the forthcoming winter number of their magazine. The Fashion Quarterly is unquestionably the leading authority on all matters of dress and the toilet generally, as well as the most trustworthy guide to shopping in all its branches. We understand that the winter number will be unusually rich in its descriptions of holiday goods and presents. The low price of the magazine, only 50 cents a year, or 15 cents a single copy, places it within the reach of all; and there is no lady but will find it useful, however small may be her purchases, or limited her means.]

New gray gloves are blue tinted.

New reticules are square and flat.

Hand-painted lace is a late novelty.

Plain velvet cloaks will again be worn.

Colored street wraps are again fashionable.

Undressed kid gloves retain their popularity.

Large and small bonnets are equally fashionable.

Chemisettes and inside kerchiefs are again in vogue.

Many walking costumes are made with a jacket bodice.

Fichus of all sizes and in every imaginable shape are worn.

Tiger and leopard velvets are handsome trimming novelties.

Large rosettes of Breton and *point d'esprit* laces are worn.

There is no absolute rule about any detail of the toilet this season.

Flowers are as much used for garnitures of evening dresses as ever.

Cream-colored silk net, polka dotted and washable, is sold for neck scarfs.

Both very light colored and very dark costumes for street wear are in vogue.

Striped velvets are not so popular for parts of costumes as those with set figures.

Opera cloaks of white toile sanglier (boar's cloth), bid fair to be very fashionable.

Lambrequin paniers and tabliers must be very ample and carefully draped to look well.

The corsage bouquet of the passing moment is one or several large red Turc satin roses.

White felt and plush hats and bonnets continue to be favorite opera and theatre *chapeaux*.

As many fabrics and accessories now enter into a bonnet as into the most elaborate dresses.

The tendency of the coiffure at the moment is towards classic simplicity and old Greek ideas.

The large directoire bow of Breton or *point d'esprit* lace is the neatest Parisian fancy in neck wear.

Medium and dark shades of kid gloves will be more worn for full dress than for many seasons past.

Singapore silk is the new name for a soft silk in rich cashmere colors and designs, used for millinery purposes.

Some foreign fashion journals say that dresses with but one skirt will certainly be worn this winter in heavy materials.

Spencers of colored velvet with lace elbow sleeves, will be worn with white skirts for evening dress by young ladies.

Turc satin is the new name for that soft, changeable, twilled, yet lustrous fabric, known sometimes as satin de Lyons.

Lambrequin drapery with paniers and tablier combined, is the favorite arrangement for Parisian toilets of ceremony.

Corsages opening low in front, in shawl or heart shape, or square *a la Pompadour*, are fashionable for women of all ages.

Two and three bands of narrow ribbon are worn around the waves of banded hair that are worn with the Greek coil at present.

White *moutonne*, a soft lamb's wool cloth, is used for dressy or evening or reception jackets for young girls, with Oriental trimmings.

A novelty in evening dress fabrics is white toile sanglier, or boar's cloth, a heavy all-wool material, dotted in raised fine points.

Pale dauphin gray and mastic shades of chinchilla and beaver cloth, plain and ribbed, are again used for jackets, dolmans, visites and sacques.

New kid gloves show deep garnet or ruby shades, seal brown, navy blue, blue gray, olive, invisible green, and all the mastic and old gold tones of color.

The crowns of some plush bonnets seem to be composed entirely of jet beads, the embroidery actually covering completely the lace on which the design is wrought.

Oxford Democrat.

PARIS, MAINE, DECEMBER 9, 1879.

Newspaper Decisions.

1. Any person who takes a paper regularly from the office—whether directed to his name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.
2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.
3. The Courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers and periodicals from the post office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of fraud.

DECEMBER.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

We present to each of our subscribers, this week, a copy of President Hayes's annual message, delivered at the assembling of Congress, last Monday.

Any extended remark upon the document is unnecessary, as we expect all who are interested (and all should be) will read it, and form opinions of their own upon it. We will, however, endorse heartily his recommendations concerning the currency, both silver and legal tender. We should pay our debt, as rapidly as possible, and not leave it as a legacy to those who took no part in the conflicts which piled it up. His ideas of civil service are Utopian; but would be well if it were possible to carry them out.

THE SITUATION AT AUGUSTA.

Affairs at Augusta took a new and decidedly unpleasant turn, last week. Agreeably to the order of Council, a large number of State and county officers elect, assembled at the capital, to review the returns. At first, all worked well, candidates for county offices, and their counsel, were allowed to inspect the returns, but when members elect to the next Legislature applied, they were refused. The Governor and Council based this refusal on the ground that the law of 1877 allowing corrections in such returns, was unconstitutional. They took the liberty to make this decision without asking the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it. All efforts to deal with the Governor and Council have now been abandoned, and an appeal has been made to the Supreme Court at Fryeburg, to compel the Secretary of State to exhibit the returns. There will be a hearing on this question on Tuesday, before Judge Virgin.

Before retiring the Republicans sent the following protest to the Governor and Council. We publish it in full, as it gives a complete and concise history of the whole difficulty:

AUGUSTA, ME., Dec. 2, 1879.

To the Honorable the Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

The undersigned Senators and Representatives elect chosen to the Legislature by the election of September 8th, 1879, beg leave to submit to your honorable Board the following protest:

During the month of October and the first half of November it was given out that the Governor and Council would meet on the 17th day of the latter month for the purpose of opening the election returns, and accordingly on the day named the Council met and there was a considerable assemblage in this city of persons immediately interested in the result. The Council at once passed an order declaring that the twenty days within which applications should be filed for correction of returns should begin to run on and from that date. The general inference was that your honorable Board would forthwith permit the parties interested to inspect the returns according to uniform usage of your predecessors. Seven ex-Governors of the State then in the city—Anson P. Morrill, Hannibal Hamlin, Lot M. Morrill, Israel Washburn, jr., Sidney Perham, Nelson Dingley, jr., and Selden Connor—testified fully and publicly that in their administrations they had never known a single instance in which a candidate for office or his authorized attorney had been refused a full and free examination of the returns. To these have since been added the concurrent testimony of ex-Governors Joseph H. Williams, Abner Coburn and Joshua L. Chamberlain, thus giving the unbroken testimony of all living ex-Governors since 1854.

But against this imposing array of precedents, against a clearly expressed legal right, against the apparent intendment of your honorable Board fixing the twenty days for applications for correction, every attempt to see the retunns has met with evasive delay or flat refusal. As a means of securing our rights resort was then had to the Supreme Judicial Court by petition on the 19th of November to issue a mandamus to compel the Secretary of State to exhibit the returns. In answer to this petition Chief Justice Appleton ordered notice for hearing on Tuesday, the 25th. Your honorable Board, however, on Saturday, the 22d, after notice had been ordered by the Chief Justice, passed the following order:

> Ordered, That the Secretary give public notice that the Governor and Council will be in session from Dec. 1st to 13th, for the purpose of examining the official returns of votes for candidates for Senators Representatives and county officers. Candidates claiming irregularities or other causes presumed to vitiate their election will have reasonable opportunity to be heard either personally or by duly authorized counsel.

As this order was understood to concede even though grudgingly and in restricted time, the privilege of inspecting and correcting the returns, all the parties in interest agreed to suspend legal proceedings and await the issue, their purpose being to reach the desired end without litigation, and even without irritation, if possible. Following the suggestions of your order, the undersigned came to this city yesterday fully expecting that the promise which the order contained would be carried out in good faith, and that they and all other legislative candidates would be permitted to inspect the returns and ascertain if there are any errors that could be corrected under the law. Several members of your honorable board had individually given assurance that there would be no difficulty in seeing the returns, and they especially assured different gentlemen that any candidate who would bring a certified copy of the election record of his town should be allowed to see the return and compare said record with it for the purpose of making the corrections hitherto always allowed.

In anticipation of this condition, the undersigned in connection with their associates in other counties, at no small expense and with much trouble, have taken pains to secure certified and attested copies of the records in nearly all towns in the State, and thus they are fully prepared to comply with this exactious, unprecedented, burdensome and expensive as it has proved, and now, after all the conditions have been complied with by the Republican candidates, after they have endeavored to adjust themselves to every reasonable, and, permit us to add, unreasonable exaction prescribed by your honoroble board we are finally and definitely told that you have decided to permit the returns of county officers to be examined, but that you decline to exhibit a single return from any county or any town of the election of any Senator or any Representative.

The Hon. Geo. C. Wing, and A. R. Savage, esq., of Auburn, attorney especially for the Senators and Representatives elect from Androscoggin county, and representing the common cause of all Republican Senators and Representatives elect, received today from your honorable board the following definite answer, delivered by his Excellency Governor Garcelon in full council, viz:

> That no one could be permitted under any circumstances to inspect the returns of election of Senators and Representatives.

His excellency was pleased to base the refusal on the conclusion of your honorable board that the statute of 1877, so far as it relates to Senators and Representatives, is unconstitutional. Under that statute his Excellency was pleased to say that the returns for county officers would be freely shown to candidates, but that no return for Senators or Representatives could be show to any one. Your honorable board will permit the undersigned to remark that they never grounded their right to inspect the returns on the act of 1877 alone, for the right they are demanding is one uniformly enjoyed by their predecessors from the foundation of the government, and now for the first time denied. The undersigned therefore cannot see how a right enjoyed in this State under the Constitution, and never hitherto withheld could be affected by the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of the statute referred to. They are especially unable to see how the executive department of the government can set aside the plain directory language of a statute. The law in question says definitely and without qualification in its concluding clause that "Its provisions so far as they relate to the correction of returns shall be applied in determining the election of Senators and Representatives to the State legislature."

Your honorable board now declare that this law is unconstitutional, a conclusion which you certainly had not reached when on November 17th you issued the notice under the twenty-day provision for corrections contained in the same section from which the above quotation is made. Your honorable board will permit the undersigned to remark that you enjoy the distinction of being the first Governor and Council who have directly assumed the duty of the judicial department of our government. It has been the practice of wise and prudent Executives to invoke the judgment of the Supreme Court on all "important questions of law and upon solemn occasions" as provided in the Constitution when doubts respecting a statute might arise. But your honorable board without that reference to the Supreme Judicial court which the Constitution of Maine specially provides for, assume to set aside the plain provision of a law now on the statute books. If your honorable board can do this in one case you can readily do it in others, and the execution of our entire body of laws is thus made to depend on the opinion which your honorable board may have as to the constitutionality of the several parts with the reserved right which you have exercised in this case of changing your conclusion in the space of fourteen days. If this be the definite basis on which your honorable board propose to execute the laws of the State, it would be a merciful act to notify the people as to which laws your honorable board regard as binding, and which as inoperative, and especially as to which statutes are safe from change of construction beyond the period of fourteen days.

We respectfully submit that as individuals we have the same right to determine the constitutionality or the unconstitutionality of a law for ourselves that your honorable board may have for yourselves. All laws duly enacted are binding until repealed or set aside by judicial decision, and your honorable board is guilty, you will permit us to say, of glaring usurpation of power whenever you decide to disobey or annul or refuse to execute any law on the statute book. Instead of this unprecedented course, why not like your careful predecessors of all parties, submit the question to the Supreme Judicial Court to determine what our rights are under the Constitution and laws as interpreted and declared by a long line of illustrious judicial decisions. You are no more above the law than are the undersigned. Nay, of all citizens, those called to execute the law should be the most ready to show the example of dutiful obedience to the law. By any other conduct you encourage insubordination that is but a single step from anarchy. We are asking for no rights not plainly conferred by the Constitution itself, no rights that have not been freely accorded to all our predecessors. The Anglo-Saxon mind detests hidden returns and secret courts and star chamber councils, and demands fair play and open proceedings and a candid tribunal at every step. The organic law of Maine which demands an open court and an open return signed and sealed in open town meeting, never contemplated that the same return as soon as it reached the Governor and Council should become a secret paper, invisible to all persons except those who, as in this instance, may have a hidden motive for the concealment.

Every member of your honorable board is politically hostile to the Republican party. But a vast plurality of the people of Maine decided by an open vote to entrust the administration of their state government to the candidates of the Rebublican party and your honorable board now decide that no successful candidate for Senator or Representative in that party shall so much as look at an election return though you have to usurp the functions of the judiciary to prevent him. Denied by your honorable board the common right of inspecting election returns heitherto accorded to all candidates; denied the right of appearing before the Executive Council of Maine heitherto freely accorded to all citizens; treated with discourtesy and indignity when preferring requests never before refused, the undersigned present this solemn protest. While resorting to other forms of redress the undersigned protest against the arrogant and unauthorized assumption of power, the unprecedented destruction of rights, the bold usurpation of judicial functions, the scandalous secreting of public records heitherto open to honest inspection which have distinguished the course of your honorable board in all the matters herein submitted for your consideration.

(Signed)
NATHAN T. HILL,
Senator-elect from Hancock.
A. R. G. SMITH,
Senator-elect from Lincoln.
JOHN L. CUTLER,
Representative-elect from Bangor.
GUY C. GOSS,
Representative-elect from Bath.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Governor Garcelon and his Council have taken a most absurd and unlawful position in relation to the examination of election returns by candidates and counsel. They allow them to examine returns for County officers only so far as the applicant has certified copies of returns from town clerks, and refuse entirely to exhibit the returns for members of the Legislature.

Mr. Geo. D. Bisbee, our member of the State Committee for 1880, is the only man from this County who has had the time and inclination to look after the interests of Oxford County in this matter at Augusta. He says he secured certified copies of returns from a few towns and appeared before the Governor and Council. They allowed him to examine the returns from those towns, but refused to exhibit any others. He has since circulated blanks among working Republicans in the County, and they have secured for his use certified copies of the record in nearly every town. Mr. Bisbee will again visit the capital, and do what he can to secure an honest count, although our candidates are in a minority, and none of them are elected.

These certified copies of the record reveal a very bad state of affairs, and if they agree with the returns at Augusta, a large share of our voters will be disfranchised, if the authorities insist upon technically correct returns. There appears to have been a systematic attempt to invalidate votes by recording initials instead of the full name as it appeared on the ballots. We know that the Republican ballots for Oxford County were all printed with the names of candidates in full, yet several returns show as candidates for Senators, F. W. Redlon and W. W. Wait. Others show for Judge of Probate A. H. Walker, and for Commissioner F. Y. Bradley. In many other ways these returns are defective. Of the 38 towns and plantations in Oxford County, there probably are not over a dozen which are absolutely and technically correct.

The importance of this matter cannot be too strongly impressed upon our people, nor can its lesson be too quickly heeded. For town clerks we must not pick up any man who may wish, or who will accept the position. We must select carefully men who are accustomed to clerical work—at least we must have those who are sufficiently careful and accurate to obey to the letter, those instructions which are sent them annually with the blanks for election returns. If such officers cannot be procured, men who are familiar with the election laws of Maine should stand by the town officers and see that the returns are correctly made. This is not for the interest of one or another party, but for the whole people. According to present appearances, a large portion of our voters will be disfranchised, simply because they did not take sufficient care in the selection of town officers. We do not believe that this course is warranted by the laws of Maine. It is certainly inconsistent with the spirit of republican institutions. The will of a majority of voters, in a republic, should control all affairs of state. It is not a question for any party, to examine and endeavor to detect some technical error, by which this expression of will may be set aside. That course is unrepublican, un-democratic, and can only lead to anarchy and destruction.

JUDGE VIRGIN.—Hon. W. W. Virgin is now holding his last term of S. J. Court, at Fryeburg. He has been on the bench seven years, and has proved a most popular and efficient Judge. During his time of service he has held thirty-eight terms of court, has tried about four hundred cases; and, as a most remarkable illustration of his clear and forcible rulings, there have been but nine of these cases in which the Jury disagreed and failed to find a verdict. By the impolitic action of our last Legislature, the State loses the services of this excellent officer, and Oxford County's list of men in prominent position is reduced by one. We understand that Mr. Pitman Pulsifer, who has reported for Judge Virgin during his entire term, save the first session of court, will accompany Judge Symonds, hereafter.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—One good, at least, will result from all this agitation—our people know more about the election laws of Maine than they did previously.

—An attempt was made to assassinate the Czar of Russia, last week, by blowing up the train on which he rode. The explosion occurred too late to have its desired effect.

—We are requested to state that our report of the burning of Widow Bucknam's buildings at West Sumner was incorrect. It is declared there was no pipe used by Mr. Bucknam on the morning of the fire. We had the report from hearsay only.

—In calling attention to the advertisement of the New York *Tribune*, to be found in another column of this paper, we do so, not for money, but because we earnestly wish that a copy may be placed in the hands of every Oxford County family. It is *the* newspaper of America.

—The question for all parties is, "what was the expressed will of the people?" not "by what methods or technicalities can our party win?" The former represents true republican principles; the latter represents anarchy, and nothing else. It is neither smartness nor shrewdness, but annihilation.

—It is a pleasure to us to commend the *Lewiston Journal*. When we want a *fair and candid* statement of any fact pertaining to our state politics, we always go to that paper, and rarely fail to find it. We emphasize this particular as one of special excellence, while in the other qualities which are desired in a general newspaper it is second to none.

So says the *Christian Mirror*, and so say we.

—The gang which runs the *New Religion* at Norway, is as devoid of decency as it is of honor. It was well known that last week we suppressed a personal attack on Dr. Bradbury (though it came from a responsible party who was ready to prove his charges) in order to avoid bringing private affairs into a political discussion, and to assist in allaying the hard feelings of a bitter contest. This courtesy was met, in the last issue of the *New Religion*, by a most unwarranted, insinuating assault upon Mr. Bearce, Postmaster at Norway, and chairman of the Republican County Committee. This attack shows the animus with which the campaign was fought, and proves it to have been purely personal. In fact, Dr. Bradbury offered to work with the Republicans, and to bring over his forces before election, if assurances were given that Mr. Bearce should be removed from the Postoffice.

—The long looked for union of the blue and the gray is about here at last. Ever since the Ohio election we have noticed the gray is looking most awfully blue.—*Hawkeye.*

REVOLUTION THREATENED.

COUNCILLOR FOGG COMPARES THE SUPREME COURT TO SEVEN JACKASSES.—THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL ABOVE ALL LAWS.—A COMPARISON OF FIGHTING FORCES.—THREATENED INTRODUCTION OF "TEN THOUSAND WILD IRISHMEN" TO FORCIBLY OVERTURN THE RESULT OF OUR ELECTION.

The last issue of the *Greenback-Labor Chronicle*, owned and edited by Mr. F. M. Fogg, a member of Governor Garcelon's Council, contains a lengthy article on the situation at Augusta, from which we cut the following:

> Perhaps Messrs. Baker & Baker are not aware however, that if the Judges of the Supreme Court had issued a mandamus against the Governor and Council, THAT BODY WOULD HAVE TAKEN NO MORE NOTICE OF IT THAN A MANDAMUS ISSUED BY SEVEN JACKASSES IN AUSTRALIA. The Supreme Court is a very august body but it has no more power over the Governor than the ghost of Solomon. The Supreme Court headed by Baker & Baker and backed by Blaine might send a posse of constables to arrest the Governor and Council. Then the Governor might call out the militia, put Augusta, and the state for that matter, under martial law, arrest every constable, and the judges too, and this would be the end of their mandamus. The Governor could enlist every man who voted against Corporal Davis, the hero of the Madigan precedent, and half the men who voted for him, for that number were bulldozed or bribed into it or they never would have committed so foolish an act, armed and equipped these men, and if necessary called upon the general Government for additional aid. Then if the 30,000 bulldozers had wanted to rattle their overloaded bowels and gorged carcasses over the frozen ground and through the deep snows of the coming winter, they could experience all the fun there is in a winter campaign in Maine.
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> * * * * * * * *
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> It must be remembered that a large part of the yeomanry of this state are greenbackers and the hard fisted citizens and mechanics in our cities are nearly all democrats. Then, when our friend Hamlin says he "won't stand it," what will he do? marshall the political office holders, bums, post-masters and the grave yards, forgetting that the Governor is backed by the farmers, operatives, train managers, locomotive firemen, gravel train workers, mechanics and ten thousand wild Irishmen, already mad on account of Ireland oppression, who fight as a pastime—all democrats and greenbackers.

For these revolutionary sentiments a member of our State government is responsible. It is useless to sneer at Mr. Fogg and at his sentiments. He is a prominent member of the coalition party or he would not have been placed in the responsible position which he occupies. His views cannot be blown aside with a breath, for the thousands who take his paper, prove by supporting it, that they endorse its sentiments.

The late election and this controversy resulting therefrom, have shown that there is a surprisingly large communistic element in the State. It undertakes to set itself above law, defies the Supreme Court, and threatens armed revolution, aided by mercenary troops imported from Ireland. The Republicans of Maine will not put up with any such nonsense, even in talk, and if certain loose-tongued orators and statesmen continue to threaten revolution, they will, some fine day, discover that they are attacked by a chronic difficulty with the breathing apparatus.

A FEW REMARKS.

NORWAY, ME., Dec. 8, 1879.

Editor of the Oxford Democrat:

If the *scaley* article which was put upon the street here on the afternoon of the day previous to the annual meeting of the Universalist Parish by my Christian (?) friend J. A (braham ?) Seitz answered the purpose of an electioneering document to the satisfaction of its author, he is welcome to the result.

As to his invitation to explain, I will say that I am informed that he and his pal are at work upon another aimed (in a christian spirit) at my devoted head, and when they get all through, if there are any charges against me that call for an explanation, I will ask for a little space in your paper for that purpose. I think the returns will be found correct upon their face if I conclude the order for me to show them is constitutional.

Hastily,
H. M. BEARCE.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Dec. 1, 1879.

Congress assembles today for a long session. The members began to gather earlier than is usual, though the hotel registers do not show the great numbers that generally congregate here on the meeting of Congress. The all-absorbing question now is, what will be the course pursued by the majority in both Houses. I think it will be President making, or in other words, they will attempt to find the way to prevent the onward march of the Republican party to victory next year; but in their madness they will hasten their own downfall.

The 19th ult. was the scene of unveiling the statue of Gen. Geo. H. Thomas, and was really the grandest day Washington has seen since the grand reviews of the Grant and Sherman armies in 1865. The statue is pronounced by competent judges to be a very fine work of art, and is located on the best site in the city, viz: The circlet formed by the junction of Massachusetts and Vermont Avenues with 14th and "M" streets, two squares from the statues of Gen'ls Scott and McPherson. It was expected at one time that it would also be the occasion of the return of Gen. Grant to this city, after an absence of two and a-half years. The citizens without distinction of party were vieing with each other in doing honor to the great chieftain. A committee of one hundred, with Judge McArthur as chairman, was appointed to make arrangements for his reception. It is now expected that he will reach here about Christmas. Many are prophesying that he will be received with greater honors than have ever been extended to any man by the residents of this city. It is certainly gratifying to the real friends of Gen. Grant, who remember the days of the Bristow and Jewell conspiracy to ruin him, to witness the change that has come over the public mind. While either of the leaders in that reprehensible affair might come to this city and spend weeks and their presence would hardly be known, the object of their intrigues is honored as no other man has been honored, and the name of Grant is on every tongue.

The excitement attending the November elections was kept at fever heat for a long time by the uncertainty of affairs in New York. There seemed to be little doubt that the Tilden Democracy intended the re-enactment of the rascality of 1868, and to count out the balance of the Republican ticket after Cornell. Potter was as much a representative of Tilden as Robinson could possibly be. The importance of the state in 1880 exasperated them, and they intended to elect him (Potter) by any means fair or foul, and thus make the election a draw game, and leave the state among the doubtful ones, in order to enable Tilden to again force his own nomination.

An event that does not comport well with the saying of Gen. Jackson that "few clerks in the departments die and none resign," occurred recently, which you will pardon me for mentioning, as the hero of the occasion is a native of the "Pine Tree State." Joseph Warren, esq., who has for more than a dozen years held an honorable position in the Treasury Department, has resigned his office and taken editorial charge of the Bay City *Chronicle and Tribune*, published at Bay City, Mich. Mr. Warren was of good old Whig stock; he advocated the formation of the Republican party while editor of the Detroit *Post and Tribune*, and to him Hon. Henry Wilson ascribed the honor of giving to the new party the name it has so honorably borne through all the years of its existence. I have known him well for the past six or eight years, and while we regret the severing of the ties that have bound us together during these years, we wish him success in his new field of labor. He is an intelligent, bold and vigorous writer, just past middle life, with much experience as a newspaper man, a stalwart indeed. We shall be much disappointed if his services are not of great value to the party he loves so well, and the principles he has so ably advocated for so many years.

Much interest is manifested here in regard to the contemplated steal of Pillsbury, Garcelon & Co., in Maine, and many are anxiously awaiting the result, and many opinions are expressed. While it seems almost incredible that such a gigantic scheme should be attempted to be carried out in the State of Maine, I see no occasion for surprise, as I know of no reason why the Democracy of that state are more virtuous than of any other. They have robbed and murdered their way to the possession of both Houses of Congress, and why not steal a few members to secure a State Legislature, if by so doing they can secure the loaves and fishes for another year?

OXFORD.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT, DECEMBER TERM, 1879.

AT FRYEBURG.

HON. WILLIAM WIRT VIRGIN,
Justice Presiding.

OFFICERS OF THE COURT:
JAMES S. WRIGHT, ESQ., *Clerk.*
PITMAN PULSIFER, *Stenographer.*
WILLIAM DOUGLASS, *Sheriff.*
WILLIAM ADNA BARROWS, *Messenger.*

DEPUTIES IN ATTENDANCE.
ELBRIDGE G. OSGOOD.
JAMES W. CHAPMAN.

Court met at the regular hour, and the usual preliminary proclamations were made.

Rev. J. K. Mason, D. D., officiated as chaplain.

The continued docket of 354 cases was called. There are 110 new entries.

Motions and divorce cases occupied the balance of the day.

Wednesday morning, the first case was put on trial. Owing to the illness of counsel, court suspended during the afternoon. Trial was resumed Thursday morning, and a verdict was received that evening. The case was:

No. 261. Emery Lord vs. Charles W. McKenney. This was an action to recover a balance claimed to be due plaintiff for pine lumber sold to defendant. Plaintiff lives in Brownfield, and agreed to furnish a lot of pine lumber to deft., who has mills at Bar Mills, in the towns of Hollis and Bucksport. Plaintiff was to put lumber into the Saco river, and was to receive $10 per thousand for timber where five logs made a thousand and $6 for smaller wood. Afterwards defendant talked with plaintiff, and wished to average the lumber and pay a stated price for it. Plaintiff put the lumber into defendant's drive, and it was received by him. Defendant sent plaintiff, by express, the amount he considered due according to his second talk or proposition. Defendant received this money, and claimed balance due in compliance with first agreement, declaring he never assented to second proposition, and there was, therefore, no contract except in the first arrangement.

Verdict for plaintiff, $41.75.
Hastings. Black & Holt.

Four attorneys were addmitted to the bar, viz: Samuel W. Gould, Edward E. Hastings, Edward C. Walker, John Brewer, jr.

Friday morning the following case was put on trial:

No. 263. Augustine Ingalls vs. Asa O. Pike, et als, appelants. Asa O. Pike, Hiram K. Hobbs, and Frank Y. Bradley owned some timber in Denmark, which they hired Ingalls to put into the Saco River. After work was begun, Ingalls declined to mark the logs. Defendants notified him they should put on men to mark the logs and deduct the expense from the amount to be paid him according to contract. Defendants did so, at the expense of $7. Plaintiff took his case to a Justice and was awarded that amount; from which decision defendants appeal.

Verdict for defendants.
S. G. Davis. Hastings.

Saturday a. m. case No. 168, Inhabitants of Denmark vs. Nathan Sanborn, was put on trial.
Littlefield. Hastings.

—The *Colby Echo* notes the following practical work of Prof. Elder of Colby University: By the constant effort of Prof. Elder, and the occasional assistance of the students and other friends of the College, the cabinet is quite rapidly increasing in interest and value. Prof. Elder is now making a special effort to procure and arrange a collection of specimens which shall represent the industries of our state. It is interesting to notice the progress already made in this direction, in the granites, slates, limestones, and mineral ores from several of the quarries and mines. Additions to this collection in specimens and information will be most gladly received. Also any other specimens of the minerals of our section, or from localities more remote, as well as additions to the general cabinet are always welcome.

Boston Journal.

THE NATIONAL BANKS—THEIR BURDENS AND THEIR PROFITS.

Quite a portion of the report of the Comptroller of the Currency, which has in part been given to the puolic, is devoted to the consideration of the burdens of the national banks and the profits of the business. As there are many people who still give credence to the campaign assertion that a national bank is a bonanza and the sure source of fabulous wealth, it is well to set forth some of the facts given by the Comptroller, even if they are not original.

In the first place, no species of property is taxed as is the stock, circulation and business of the national banks. The tax imposed was essentially a war tax. All other war taxes have been abolished except that imposed upon the national banks. For the past twelve years the average combined capital and surplus of these banks has been $588,554,173, and the average net earnings have been $68,078,144. Of this sum $16,953,578, or about one-fourth of the whole, have been paid annually as Federal and State taxes. During the last fiscal year the 2048 national banks, having a capital of $455,240,000, and deposits aggregating $713,400,000, paid Federal taxes of $6,500,000, while all other banks and bankers, numbering 4312, and having an aggregate capital of $201,240,000, and deposits aggregating $1,180,120,000, paid only $3,198,000 as taxes. Since 1864 the national banks have paid into the Treasury $92,754,791.67 as taxes, while all other banks and bankers doing a much larger business have paid only $54,427,000. In other words, the national banks have paid more than two-thirds of the taxes imposed upon the banking business of the country by the Federal Government. The capital of national banks is compelled to pay very much the heaviest rate of taxation of any property in the country. To prove that this is the case, it is only necessary to give the rate of tax imposed in the following cities and States:

Boston, 2.6; New York, 5.1; Albany, 5.6; Philadelphia, 2.7; Cincinnati, 4.2; Chicago, 5.1, Milwaukee, 5; St. Louis, 4; New York State, 4.6; Ohio, 3.5; Indiana, 3.4; Illinois, 3.8; Wisconsin, 3.9; Kansas, 4.2; Nebraska, 4.9.

The report of the Comptroller shows that the national banks have not avoided the losses and disasters which have overtaken other branches of business during the past five years. The reports of the banks show that during the fiscal year ending last June, the banks "charged off losses" amounting to $21,725,654; in 1878, the same amounted to $24,466,800; in 1877, $19,933,588; in 1876 to $19,719,024—a total in four years of $85,845,069. Of the losses "charged off" within the last two and a half years $8,639,407 was on account of the depreciation in the premium on the national bonds held by the banks. Thus it appears that the total sum charged off as losses the past four years is more than 19 per cent. of the entire capital of the banks. But for the wise provision of the National Banking act, which requires the banks to set aside before the semi-annual dividends one-tenth of the net profits of the preceding six months as a surplus, it is fair to assume that many of the banks would not have been able to have withstood the losses of the past five years and retained unquestioned solvency. These total surplus funds of the banks increased until June, 1875. Since that date each succeeding report has shown a constantly diminishing surplus.

The report shows that there has been a constant falling off in the earnings of national banks since 1870. In 1870 the ratio of dividends to capital and surplus was 8.35 per cent., while during the fiscal year which closed last June it was 6.07 per cent. The number of banks passing dividends in the first dividend period of 1879 was 309. These banks had a capital of $53,843,700 or nearly 10 per cent. of the entire capital invested in the business. During the last four years the average number of banks passing semi-annual dividends was 292. These banks have an aggregate capital of $45,740,137. In other words, one-seventh of the number of national banks, having one-tenth of the capital invested in national banking, have paid no dividend in four years. These are facts which go to show the falsity of the statements to the effect that national banking is a monopoly which yields immense profits to the owners of national bank stock.

The Comptroller urges upon Congress the importance of repealing the existing taxes upon the capital and deposits of national banks. The above facts ought to satisfy Congress that justice if nothing else demands that the advice of the Comptroller should be heeded.

LITERARY NOTES.

—Mrs. Oliphant has written another story, "The Greatest Heiress in England," which her English publishers will shortly issue in the traditional three-volume form.

—It is announced that Mr. R. H. Horne, author of "Orion," etc., has a new tragedy in the press, the scenes of which are laid in Italy, during the time of the Neapolitan prison atrocities in 1850-51.

—Mr. Darley's "Compositions in Outline from Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter" will be published next week by Messrs. Houghton, Osgood & Co. There are twelve drawings, which are strong, striking and sympathetic in a very marked degree.

—This is how the destruction of the great Alexandrian Library came about: Said Omar—"Either these books are in conformity with the Koran, or they are not. If they are they are useless, and if not they are evil; in either event, therefore, let them be destroyed." Such was the logic that led to the destruction of 700,000 manuscript volumes.

—Gen. Gordon's history of the campaigns of the Army of Virginia will be issued from the press of Messrs. Houghton, Osgood & Co. in a week or two. It will make an octavo volume, illustrated with five maps. It is written in a pungent and interesting way, and the passages that relate to the career of Stonewall Jackson and to the case of Fitz-John Porter will attract especial attention.

—A publisher at Barcelona has undertaken the issue of heliographical and photographical copies of one hundred selected illustrations which have appeared in sixty editions of "Don Quixote" which have been published during the last 257 years at Barcelona, Brussels, Copenhagen, the Hague, Leipzig, London, Madrid, Paris, Prague, Tours and Venice. Ninety examples have been already published.

—There are eight newspapers in the United States which claim to be over one hundred years old. Below are the names of the papers and the dates when they are said to have been established: Annapolis (Md.) *Maryland Gazette*, 1745; Portsmouth (N. H.) *Gazette*, 1756; Newport (R. I.) *Mercury*, 1758; New London (Conn.) *Gazette*, 1763; Hartford (Conn.) *Courant*, 1764; New Haven (Conn.) *Journal*, 1767; Salem (Mass.) *Gazette*, 1768; Worcester (Mass.) *Spy*, 1770.

—Mr. Edmund W. Gosse and Mr. Arthur O'Shaughnessy, two young English poets of the Rossetti-Swinburne school, have broken their long silence; the first by a volume of "New Poems," which the *Athenæum* praises cordially and the extracts from which show it to possess many exquisite qualities, and the second by a long poem, not yet published, entitled "Christ Will Return," which deals with the abuses of power and priest-craft that have crept into the church.

—Tennyson has just written a poem of five stanzas as an introduction to the new edition of his late brother Charles's sonnets, which will contain sixty new sonnets. *St. Nicholas* has been fortunate enough to obtain two child songs from Tennyson, which will probably appear in the January number. We do not remember that the Laureate ever before consented to write for an American periodical. Tennyson is strong and healthy and his hair is still black—so one who has lately seen him reports.

—The *Atlantic Monthly* is to contain more good things than ever, and in more inviting form. Beginning with the January number, it is to be printed from larger type on a page considerably larger than the former, and will be increased to 144 pages. A new serial story, by Mr. Howells, begins in the January number, and will run through six months or more. This is probably the most gratifying announcement that could be made to American magazine readers. The fine life-size portrait of Dr. Holmes, which Messrs. Houghton, Osgood & Co. offer for a dollar to the subscribers for the *Atlantic*, can hardly fail to have a very large circulation; certainly not, if the American people remember how much the wise and witty "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" has contributed to the brightest and best, and most entertaining portion of American Literature.

THE WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF ST. NICHOLAS.—This monthly magazine for girls and boys, edited by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, has grown in circulation so rapidly as to warrant a permanent increase in size, beginning with November. The Christmas number, now almost ready, has a special holiday cover, and is the largest and most beautiful issue of any magazine for girls and boys ever published, containing more than one hundred pages and ninety-five pictures. It contains twelve short stories by J. T. Trowbridge, Washington Gladden, J. W. De Forest, Maurice Thompson, Sarah Winter Kellogg, and others; also the first chapters of a serial story by Louisa M. Alcott, written in the author's best vein, and the second installment of a capital serial for the boys, by William O. Stoddard, to run some months. (A long story, also for boys, by Noah Brooks, author of "The Boy Emigrants," will begin soon.) John Greenleaf Whittier contributes a long poem, while Lucy Larcom and Mary Mapes Dodge are also represented in verse. There is a Christmas play for festivals, by Edward Eggleston; an illustrated art-paper on Thorvaldsen, and an account, with pictures, of the life and doings of New York Telegraph Boys. Gustave Dore, Knaus, Mary Hallock Foote, Kelly, Dielman, Bensell, Sheppard, Eytinge, Jessie Curtis and Addie Ledyard are among the artists represented. Buy this number and see what St. Nicholas really is. Your newsdealer will supply it and take your subscription for the year, or the money may be sent in check, P. O. order or registered letter to the publishers. Price $3.00 a year, 25 cents a number. Scribner & Co., 743 Broadway, New York.

The Oxford Democrat.

SUPPLEMENT.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The members of the Forty-sixth Congress have assembled in their first regular session under circumstances calling for mutual congratulations and grateful acknowledgment to the Giver of all good for the large and unusual measure of national prosperity which we now enjoy. The most interesting events which have occurred in our public affairs since my last annual message to Congress are connected with the financial operations of the government directly affecting the business interest of the country. I congratulate Congress on the successful execution of the Resumption act. At the time fixed and in the manner contemplated by law, United States notes began to be redeemed in coin. Since the first of January last they have been promptly redeemed on presentation and in all business transactions, public and private, in all parts of the country, they are received and paid out as the equivalent of coin. The demand upon the treasury for gold and silver in exchange for United States notes has been comparatively small, and the voluntary deposit of coin bullion in exchange for notes has been very large. The excess of the precious metals deposited or exchanged for United States notes, over the amount of United States notes redeemed is about $40,000,000.

The resumption of specie payments has been followed by a very great revival of business. With a currency equivalent in value to the money of the commercial world, we are enabled to enter upon an equal competition with other nations in trade and production. The increasing foreign demand for our manufactures and agricultural products has caused a large balance of trade in our favor, which has been paid in gold from the first of July last to Nov. 15, to the amount of about $59,000,000. Since the resumption of specie payments there has also been a marked and gratifying improvement of the public credit. The bonds of the government, bearing only four per cent. interest, have been sold at or above par, sufficient in amount to pay off all of the national debt which was redeemable under present laws. The amount of interest saved annually by the process of refunding the debt since March 1, 1877, is $14,297,177 The bonds sold were largely in small sums, and the number of our citizens now holding the public securities is much greater than ever before.

The amount of the national debt which matures within less than two years is $792,121,700, of which $500,000,000 bear interest at the rate of five per cent., and the balance is in bonds bearing six per cent. interest. It is believed that this part of the public debt can be refunded by the issue of four per cent. bonds, and by the reduction of interest which will thus be effected, about $11,000,000 can be annually saved to the treasury. To secure this important reduction of interest to be paid by the United States, further legislation is required, which, it is hoped, will be provided by Congress during its present session.

The coinage of gold by the mints of the United States during the last fiscal year was $40,986,912. The coinage of silver dollars since the passage of the act for that purpose up to November 1, 1879, was $45,000,850, of which $12,700,344 have been issued from the treasury and are now in circulation, and $32,300,506 are still in the possession of the government. The pendency of the proposition for unity of action between the United States and the principal commercial nations of Europe, to effect a permanent system for the equality of gold and silver in the recognized money of the world, leads me to recommend that Congress refrain from new legislation on the general subject. The great revival of trade, internal and foreign, will supply, during the coming year, its own instructions, which may well be awaited before attempting further experimental measures with the coinage. I would, however, strongly, urge upon Congress the importance of authorizing the secretary of the treasury to suspend the coinage of silver dollars upon the present legal ratio. The market value of the silver dollar being uniformly and largely less than the market value of the gold dollar, it is obviously impracticable to maintain them at par with each other if both are coined without limit. If the cheaper coin is forced into circulation it will, if coined without limit, soon become the sole standard of value, and thus defeat the desired object, which is a currency of both gold and silver, which shall be of equivalent value, dollar for dollar, with the universally recognized money of the world. The retirement from circulation of United States notes, with the capacity of legal tender in private contracts, is a step to be taken in our progress toward a safe and stable currency, which should be accepted as the policy and duty of the government, and the interest and security of the people. It is my firm conviction that the issue of legal tender paper-money, based wholly upon the authority of the government, except in extreme emergency, is without warrant in the Constitution and a violation of sound financial principles. The issue of United States notes during the late civil war, with the capacity of legal tender between private individuals, was not authorized, except as a means of rescuing the country from imminent peril. The circulation of these notes as paper money for any protracted period of time after the accomplishment of this purpose was not contemplated by the framers of the law under which they were issued. They anticipated the redemption and withdrawal of these notes at the earliest practicable period, consistent with the attainment of the object for which they were provided. The policy of the United States, steadily adhered to from the adoption of the Constiution, has been to avoid the creation of a national debt, and when, from necessity, in time of war, debts have been created, they have been paid off on the return of peace as rapidly as possible. With this view, and for this purpose, it is recommended that the existing laws for the accumulation of a sinking fund sufficient to extinguish the public debt within a limited period be maintained. If any change of the objects or rates of taxation is deemed necessary by Congress, it is suggested that experience has shown that a duty can be placed on tea and coffee, which will not enhance the price of those articles to the consumer, and which will add several millions of dollars annually to the treasury.

THE SUPPRESSION OF POLYGAMY.

The continued deliberate violation by a large number of the prominent and influential citizens of the Territory of Utah of the laws of the United States for the prosecution and punishment of polygamy, demands the attention of every department of the government. This Territory has a population sufficient to entitle it to admission as a State, and the general interests of the nation, as well as the welfare of the citizens of the Territory, require its advance from the territorial form of government to the responsibilities and privileges of a State. This important change will not, however, be approved by the country while the citizens of Utah, in very considerable number, uphold a practice which is condemned as a crime by the laws of all civilized communities throughout the world. The law for the suppression of this offence was enacted with great unanimity by Congress more than seventeen years ago, but has remained until recently a dead letter in the Territory of Utah, because of the peculiar difficulties attending its enforcement. The opinion widely prevailed among the citizens of Utah that the law was in contravention of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom. This objection is now removed. The supreme court of the United States has decided the law to be within the legislative power of Congress, and binding, as a rule of action, for all who resided within the Territories. There is no longer any reason for delay or hesitation in its enforcement. It should be firmly and effectively executed. If not sufficiently stringent in its provisions, it should be amended, and, in aid of the purpose in view, I recommend that more comprehensive and more searching methods for preventing, as well as punishing, this crime be provided. If necessary to secure obedience to the law, the enjoyment and exercise of the rights and privileges of citizenship in the Territories of the United States may be withheld or withdrawn from those who violate or oppose the enforcement of the law on this subject.

The elections of the past year, though occupied only with State offices, have not failed to elicit, in the political discussions which attended them all over the country, new and decisive evidence of the deep interest which the great body of citizens take in the progress of the country toward a more general and complete establishment, at whatever cost, of universal security and freedom in the exercise of the elective franchise. While many topics of political concern demand great attention from our people, both in the sphere of national and State authority, I find no reason to qualify the opinion I expressed in my last annual message, that no temporary or administrative interests of government, however urgent or weighty, will ever display the zeal of our people in defence of the primary rights of citizenship, and that the power of public opinion will override all political prejudices and all sectional and State attachments, in demanding that all over our wide territory the name and character of citizen of the United States shall mean one and the same thing, and carry with them unchallenged security and respect. I earnestly appeal to the intelligence and patriotism of all good citizens, of every part of the country, however much they may be divided in opinions on other political subjects, to unite in compelling obedience to existing laws aimed at the protection of the right of suffrage. I respectfully urge upon Congress to supply any defects in these laws which experience has shown, and which it is within its power to remedy. I again invoke the co-operation of the executive and legislative authorities of the States in this great purpose. I am fully convinced that if the public mind can be set at rest on this paramount question of popular rights, no serious object will thwart or delay the complete pacification of the country, or retard the general diffusion of prosperity.

REFORMING THE CIVIL SERVICE.

In a former message I invited the attention of Congress to the subject of the reformation of the civil service of the government, and expressed the intention of transmitting to Congress, as early as practicable, a report upon this subject by the chairman of the civil service commission. In view of the facts that during a considerable period the government of Great Britain has been dealing with administrative problems and abuses, in various particulars analogous to those presented in this country, and that, in recent years, the measures adopted were understood to have been effective and in every respect highly satisfactory, I thought it desirable to have fuller information upon the subject, and accordingly requested the chairman of the civil service commission to make a thorough investigation for this purpose. The result has been an elaborate and comprehensive report. The report sets forth the history of the partisan spoils system in Great Britain and of the rise and fall of the parliamentary patronage, and of official interference with the freedom of elections. It shows that after long trials of various kinds of examinations, those which are competitive and open on equal terms to all, and which are carried on under the superintendence of a single commission, have with great advantage been established as conditions of admission to almost every official place in the subordinate administration of that country and of British India. The completion of the report, owing to the extent of the labor involved in its preparation and the omission of Congress to make any provision either for the compensation or the expenses of the commission, has been postponed until the present time. It is herewith transmitted to Congress. While the reform measures of another government are of no authority for us, they are entitled to influence to the extent to which their intrinsic wisdom and their adaptation to our institutions and social life may commend them to our consideration.

The views I have heretofore expressed concerning the defects and abuses in our civil administration remain unchanged except in so far as an enlarged experience has opened my sense of the duty, both of officers and the people themselves, to co-operate for their removal. The grave evils and perils of a partisan-spoils system of appointment to office and of office tenure are now generally recognized. In the resolutions of the great parties, in the reports of departments, in the debates and proceedings of Congress, in the messages of executives, the gravity of these evils has been pointed out, and the need of their reform has been admitted. To command the necessary support, every measure of reform must be based on common right and justice, and must be compatible with the healthy existence of great parties, which are inevitable and essential in a free State. When the people have approved a policy at a national election, confidence on the part of the officers they have selected and of the advisers who, in accordance with our political institutions, should be consulted in the policy which it is their duty to carry into effect is indispensable. It is eminently proper that they should explain it before the people as well as illustrate its spirit in the performance of their official duties.

It hardly need be pointed out that very different considerations apply to the greater number of those who fill the subordinate places in the civil service. Their responsibility is to their superiors in official position. It is their duty to obey the legal instructions of those upon whom that authority is devolved, and their best public service consists in the discharge of their functions irrespective of partisan politics. Their duties are the same whatever party is in power, and whatever policy prevails. As a consequence, it follows that their tenure of office should not depend upon the prevalence of any policy, or the supremacy of any party, but should be determined by their capacity to serve the people most usefully, quite irrespective of partisan interests. The same considerations that should govern the tenure should also prevail in the appointment, discipline, and removal of these subordinates. The authority of appointment and removal is not a perquisite which may be used to aid a friend or reward a partisan, but is a trust to be exercised in the public interest under all the sanctions which attend the obligation to apply the public funds only for public purposes. Every citizen has an equal right to the honor and profit of entering the public service of his country. The only just ground of discrimination is the measure of character and capacity he has to make that service most useful to the people. Except in cases where, upon just and recognized principles, as upon the theory of pensions, offices and promotions are bestowed as rewards for past services, their bestowal upon any theory which disregards personal merit is an act of injustice to the citizen, as well as a breach of that trust subject to which the appointing power is held.

PROPER METHODS OF EXAMINATION.

In the light of these principles, it becomes of great importance to provide just and adequate means, especially for every department and large administrative office where personal discrimination on the part of its head is not practicable, for ascertaining those qualifications to which appointments and removals should have reference. To fail to provide such means is not only to deny the opportunity of ascertaining the facts upon which the most righteous claim to office depends, but of necessity to discourage all worthy aspirants by handing over appointments and removals to mere influence and favoritism. If it is the right of the worthiest claimant to gain the appointment, and the interest of the people to bestow it upon him, it would seem clear that a wise and just method of ascertaining personal fitness for office must needs be an important and permanent function of every just and wise government. It has long since become impossible, in the great offices, for those having the duty of nomination and appointment to personally examine into the individual qualifications of more than a small proportion of those seeking office, and with the enlargement of civil service that proportion must continue to become less. In the earlier years of the government, the subordinate offices were so few in number that it was easy for those making appointments and promotions to personally ascertain the merits of the candidates. Party managers and methods had not then become powerful agencies of coercion hostile to the free and just exercise of the appointing power.

A large and responsible part of the duty of restoring the civil service to the desired purity and efficiency rests upon the President, and it has been my purpose to do what is in my power to advance such prudent and gradual measures of reform as will most surely and rapidly bring about that radical change of system essential to make our administration methods satisfactory to a free and intelligent people. By a proper exercise of authority it is in the power of the executive to do much to promote such a reform. But it cannot be too clearly understood that nothing adequate can be accomplished without cooperation on the part of Congress, and considerate and intelligent support among the people. Reforms which challenge the generally-accepted theories of parties, and demand changes in the methods of departments, are not the work of a day. Their permanent foundations must be laid in sound principles, and in an experience which demonstrate their wisdom and exposes the errors of their adversaries. Every worthy officer desires to make his official action a gain and an honor to his country, but the people themselves, far more than their officers in public station, are interested in a pure, economical, and vigorous administration.

By laws enacted in 1853 and 1855, and now in substance incorporated in the revised statutes, the practice of arbitrary appointments to the several subordinate grades in the great departments was condemned, and examinations as to capacity, to be conducted by departmental boards of examiners, were provided for and made conditions of admission to the public service. These statutes are a decision by Congress that examinations of some sort as to attainments and capacity are essential to the well-being of the public service. The important questions since the enactment of these laws have been as to the character of these examinations and whether official favor and partisan influence or common right and merit were to control the access to the examinations. In practice, these examinations have not always been open to worthy persons generally who might wish to be examined; official favoritism and partisan influence, as a rule, appear to have designated those who alone were permitted to go before the examining boards, subjecting even the examiners to a pressure from the friends of the candidates very difficult to resist. As a consequence, the standard of admission fell below that which the public interest demanded. It was almost inevitable that a system which provided for various separate boards of examiners, with no common supervision or uniform method of procedure, should result in confusion, inconsistency, and inadequate tests of capacity, highly detrimental to the public interest. A further and more radical change was obviously required. In the annual message of December, 1870, my predecessor declared that "there is no duty which so much embarrasses the Executive and heads of departments as that of appointments, nor is there any such arduous and thankless labor imposed on Senators and Representatives as that of finding places for constituents. The present system does not secure the best men, and often not even fit men, for the public places. The elevation and purification of the civil service of the government will be hailed with approval by the whole people of the United States." Congress accordingly passed the act, approved March 3, 1871, "to regulate the civil service of the United States and promote the efficiency thereof," giving the necessary authority to the Executive to institute a civil service reform.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

Acting under this statute, which was interpreted as intended to secure a system of just and effectual examinations, under uniform supervision, a number of eminently competent persons were selected for the purpose, who entered with zeal upon the discharge of their duties, prepared with an intelligent appreciation of the requirements of the service the regulations contemplated, and took charge of the examinations, and who, in their capacity as a board, have been known as the "Civil Service Commission." Congress for two years appropriated the money needed for the compensation and for the expense of carrying on the work of the commission. It appears from the report of the commission, submitted to the President in April, 1874, that examinations had been held in various sections of the country, and that an appropriation of about $25,000 would be required to meet the annual expenses, including salaries, involved in discharging the duties of the commission.

The report was transmitted to Congress by special message of April 18, 1874, with the following favorable comment upon the labors of the commission: "If sustained by Congress, I have no doubt the rules can, after the experience gained, be so improved and enforced as to still more materially benefit the public service and relieve the executive, members of Congress, and the heads of departments from influences prejudicial to good administration. The rules, as they have hitherto been enforced, have resulted beneficially, as is shown by the opinions of the members of the cabinet and their subordinates in the departments, and in that opinion I concur." And in the annual message of December of the same year, similar views are expressed, and an appropriation for continuing the work of the commission again advised. The appropriation was not made, and, as a consequence, the active work of the commission was suspended, leaving the commission itself in existence, without the means, therefore, of causing qualifications to be tested in any systematic manner, or of securing for the public service the advantages of competition upon any extensive plan. I recommended in my annual message of December, 1877, the making of an appropriation for the resumption of the work of the commission In the meantime, however, competitive examinations, under many embarassments, have been conducted, within limited spheres, in the executive departments in Washington, and in a number of the custom houses and postoffices of the principal cities of the country, with a view to further test their effects, and in every instance they have been found to be as salutary as they are stated to have been under the administration of my predecessor. I think the economy, purity and efficiency of the public service would be greatly promoted by their systematic introduction, wherever practicable, throughout the entire civil service of the government, together with ample provision for their general supervision, in order to secure consistency and uniform justice. Reports from the secretary of the interior, from the postmaster-general, from the postmaster in the city of New York, where such examinations have been some time on trial, and also from the collector of the port, the naval officer and the surveyor in that city, and from the postmasters and collectors in several of the other large cities, show that the competitive system, where applied, has in various ways contributed to improve the public service. The reports show that the results have been salutary in a marked degree, and that the general application of similar rules cannot fail to be of decided benefit to the service. The reports of the government officers in the city of New York especially, bear decided testimony to the utility of open competitive examinations in their respective offices, showing that "these examinations, and the excellent qualifications of those admitted to the service through them, have had a marked incidental effect upon the persons previously in the service, and particularly upon those aspiring to promotion. There has been, on the part of these latter, an increased interest in the work, and a desire to extend acquaintance with it beyond a particular desk, and thus the morale of the entire force has been raised. The examinations have been attended by many citizens, who have had an opportunity to thoroughly investigate the scope and character of the tests and the method of determining the results, and those visitors have, without exception approved the modes employed, and several of them have publicly attested their favorable opinion upon such considerations." I deem it my duty to renew the recommendation contained in my annual message of December, 1877, requesting Congress to make the necessary appropriation for the resumption of the work of the civil service commission. Economy will be promoted by authorizing a moderate compensation to persons in the public service who may perform extra labor upon or under the commission, as the executive may direct.

I am convinced that if a just and definite test of merit is enforced for admission to the public service and in making promotions, such abuses as removal without good cause and partisan and official interference with the proper exercise of the appointing power, will, in a large measure, disappear. There are other administrative abuses to which the attention of Congress should be asked in this connection. Mere partisan appointment and the constant peril of removal without cause very naturally lead to an absorbing and mischievous political activity on the part of those thus appointed, which not only interferes with the due discharge of official duty, but is incompatible with the freedom of elections. Not without warrant, in the view of several of my predecessors in the presidential office, and directly in accordance with the law of 1871, already cited, I endeavored, by regulation made on the twenty-second of June, 1877, to put some reasonable limits to such abuses.

It may not be easy, and it may never, perhaps, be necessary, to define with precision the proper limit of political action on the part of federal officers. But while their right to hold and freely express their opinions cannot be questioned, it is very plain that they should neither be allowed to devote to other subjects the time needed for the proper discharge of their official duties, nor to use the authority of their office to enforce their own opinions, or to coerce the political action of those who hold different opinions. Reasons of justice and public policy quite analogous to those which forbid the use of official power for the oppression of the private citizen impose upon the government the duty of protecting its officers and agents from arbitrary exactions. In whatever aspect considered, the practice of making levies for party purposes upon the salaries of officers is highly demoralizing to the public service and discreditable to the country. Though an officer should be as free as any other citizen to give his own money in aid of his opinions or his party, he should also be as free as any other citizen to refuse to make such gifts. If salaries are but a fair compensation for the time and labor of the officers, it is gross injustice to levy a tax upon them. If they are made excessive in order that they may bear the tax, the excess is an indirect robbery of the public funds. I recommend, therefore, such a revision and extension of present statutes as shall secure to those in every grade of official life or public employment the protection with which a great and enlightened nation should guard those who are faithful in its service.

Our relations with foreign countries have continued peaceful. With Great Britain there are still unsettled questions, growing out of the local laws of the maritime provinces and the action of provincial authorities, deemed to be in derogation of rights secured by treaty to American fishermen. The United States minister in London has been instructed to present a demand for $105,305,62, in view of the damages received by American citizens at Fortune Bay on the sixth day of January, 1878. The subject has been taken in consideration by the British government, and an early reply is anticipated. Upon the completion of the necessary preliminary examination, the subject of our participation in the provincial fisheries, as regulated by treaty, will at once be brought to the attention of the British government, with a view to an early and permanent settlement of the whole question, which was only temporarily adjusted by the treaty of Washington. Efforts have been made to obtain the removal of restrictions found injurious to the exportation of cattle to the United Kingdom. Some correspondence has also occurred with regard to the rescue and saving of life and property upon the lakes, which has resulted in important modifications of the previous regulations of the Dominion government on the subject in the interest of humanity and commerce. In accordance with the joint resolution of the last session of Congress, commissioners were appointed to represent the United States at the two international exhibitions in Australia, one of which is now in progress at Sidney, and the other to be held next year at Melbourne. A desire has been expressed by our merchants and manufacturers interested in the important and growing trade with Australia that an increased provision should be made by Congress for the representation of our industries at the Melbourne exhibition of next year, and the subject is respectfully submitted to your favorable consideration.

The assent of the government has been given to the landing on the coast of Massachusetts of a new and independent transatlantic cable between France, by way of the French island of St. Pierre, and this country, subject to any future legislation of Congress on the subject. The conditions imposed, before allowing this connection with our shores to be established, are such as to secure its competition with any existing or future lines of marine cable, and preclude amalgamation therewith. To provide for entire equality of rights to our government and people with those of France and in the use of the cable, and prevent any exclusive possession of the privilege as accorded by France to the disadvantage of any future cable communication between France and the United States which may be projected and accomplished by our citizens, an important reduction of the present rates of cable communication with Europe, felt to be too burdensome to the interests of our commerce, must necessarily flow from the establishment of this competing line. The attention of Congress was drawn to the propriety of some general regulation by Congress of the whole subject of transmarine cables by my predecessor in his message of December 7, 1875, and I respectfully submit to your consideration the importance of congressional action in this matter.

The questions of grave importance with Spain, growing out of the incidents of the Cuban insurrection, have been, for the most part, happily and honorably settled. It may reasonably be anticipated that the commission, now sitting in Washington, for the decision of private cases in this connection, will soon be able to bring its labors to a conclusion. The long-standing question of East Florida claims has lately been renewed as a subject of correspondence, and may possibly require congressional action for its final disposition.

A treaty with the Netherlands, with respect to consular rights and privileges, similar to those with other powers, has been signed and ratified, and the ratifications were exchanged on the thirty-first of July last. Negotiations for extradition treaties with the Netherlands and with Denmark are now in progress.

Some questions with Switzerland in regard to pauper and convict emigrants have arisen, but it is not doubted that they will be arranged upon a just and satisfactory basis. A question has also occurred with respect to an asserted claim by Swiss municipal authorities to exercise tutelage over persons and property of Swiss citizens naturalized in this country. It is possible this may require adjustment by treaty.

With the German empire frequent questions arise in connection with the subjects of naturalization and expatriation, but the imperial government has constantly manifested a desire to strictly maintain and comply with all treaty stipulations in regard to them.

In consequence of the omission of Congress to provide for a diplomatic representative at Athens, the legation to Greece has been withdrawn. There is now no channel of diplomatic communication between the two countries.

Relations with Austria, Russia, Italy, Portugal, Turkey and Belgium continue amicable, and marked by no incident of especial importance. A change of the personal head of the government of Egypt has taken place No change, however, has occurred in the relations between Egypt and the United States. The action of the Egyptian government in presenting to the city of New York one of the ancient obelisks which possess such historical interest is highly appreciated as a generous mark of international regard. If prosperity should attend the enterprise of its transportation across the Atlantic, its erection in a conspicuous position in the chief commercial city of the nation will be soon accomplished.

The treaty recently made between Japan and the United States, in regard to the revision of former treaties, it is now believed will be followed by similar action on the part of other treaty powers. The attention of Congress is again invited to the subject of the indemnity funds received some years since from Japan and China, which with their accumulated interest, now amount to considerable sums. If any part of these funds is justly due to American citizens they should receive it promptly, and whatever may have been received by this government in excess of strictly just demands, should in some form, be returned to the nations to whom it equitably belongs. The government of China has signified its willingness to consider the question of the emigration of its subjects to the United States with a dispassionate fairness, and to co-operate in such measures as may tend to prevent injurious consequences to the United States. The negotiations are still proceeding and will be passed with diligence. A question having arisen between China and Japan about the Loochoo Islands, the United States government has taken measures to inform those powers of its readiness to extend its good offices for the maintenance of peace, if they shall mutually deem it desirable and find it practicable to avail themselves of the proffer.

STOPPING THE BORDER RAIDS.

It is a gratification to be able to announce that, through the judicious and energetic action of the military commanders of the two nations on each side of the Rio Grande, under the instructions of their respective governments, raids and depredations have greatly decreased, and in the localities where formerly most destructive, have now almost wholly ceased. In view of this result, I entertain a confident expectation that the continuance of the prevalence of quiet on the border will soon become so assured as to justify a modification of the present orders to our military commanders, as to crossing the border, without encouraging such disturbances as would endanger the peace of the two countries. The third installment of the award against Mexico under the claims commission of July 4, 1868, was duly paid and has been put in course of distribution in pursuance of the act of Congress providing for the same. This satisfactory situation between the two countries leads me to anticipate an expansion of our trade with Mexico and an increased contribution of capital and industry by our people to the development of the great resources of that country. I earnestly commend to the wisdom of Congress the provision of suitable legislation looking to this result.

Diplomatic intercourse with Colombia is again fully restored by the arrival of a minister from that country to the United States. This is especially fortunate in view of the fact that the question of an interoceanic canal has recently assumed a new and important aspect and is now under discussion with the Central American countries, through whose territory the canal by the Nicaragua route would have to pass. It is trusted that enlightened statesmanship on their part will see that the early prosecution of such a work will largely inure to the benefit. not only of their own citizens and those of the United States, but of the commerce of the civilized world. It is not doubted that should the work be undertaken under the protective auspices of the United States, and upon satisfactory concessions for the right of way and its security by the Central American governments, the capital for its completion would readily be furnished from this country and Europe which might, failing such guarantees, prove inaccessible.

Diplomatic relations with Chili have also been strengthened by the reception of a minister from that country. The war between Peru, Bolivia and Chili still continues. The United States have not deemed it proper to interpose in the matter further than to convey to all the governments concerned the assurance that the friendly offices of the government of the United States for the restoration of peace upon an honorable basis will be extended, in case the belligerents shall exhibit a readiness to accept them. Cordial relations continue with Brazil and the Argentine Republic, and trade with those countries is improving. A provision for regular and more frequent mail communication, in our own ships, between the ports of this country and the nations of South America, seems to me to deserve the attention of Congress as an essential precursor of an enlargement of our commerce with them and an extension of our carrying trade. A recent revolution in Venezuela has been followed by the establishment of a provisional government. This government has not yet been formally recognized, and it is deemed desirable to await the proposed action of the people which is expected to give it the sanction of constitutional forms. A naval vessel has been sent to the Samoan islands, to make surveys and take possession of the privileges ceded to the United States by Samoa, in the harbor of Pago-Pago. A coaling station is to be established there, which will be convenient and useful to United States vessels.

The subject of opening diplomatic relations with Roumania and Servia, now become independent sovereignties, is at present under consideration, and is the subject of diplomatic correspondence.

There is a gratifying increase of trade with nearly all European and American countries, and it is believed that, with judicious action to regard to its development, it can and will be still more enhanced, and that American products and manufactures will find new and expanding markets. The reports of diplomatic and consulate officers upon this subject, under the system now adopted, have resulted in obtaining much valuable information which has been and will continue to be laid before Congress and the public from time to time.

THE CONDITION OF ALASKA.

The third article of the treaty with Russia, of March 30, 1867, by which Alaska was ceded to the United States, provides that the inhabitants of the ceded territory, with the exception of the uncivilized native tribes, shall be admitted to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, and shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty of property and religion. The uncivilized tribes are subject to such laws and regulations as the United States may from time to time adopt in regard to the aboriginal tribes of that country. Both the obligations of this treaty and the necessities of the people require that some organized form of government over the Territory of Alaska be adopted. There appears to be no law for the arrest of persons charged with common law offenses, such as assault, robbery, and murder, and no magistrate authorized to issue or execute process in such cases. Serious difficulties have already arisen from offences of this character, not only among the original inhabitants, but among citizens of the United States and other countries who have engaged in mining, fishing, and other business operations within the Territory. A bill authotizing the appointment of justices of the peace and constables, and the arrest and detention of persons charged with criminal offences and providing for an appeal to United States courts for the district of Or[illegible] in suitable cases, will, at a prope[illegible] be submitted to Congress.

THE PUBLIC FINANCES.

The attention of Congress is cal[illegible] the annual report of the secretary of the treasury on the condition of the public finances. The ordinary revenues from all sources for the fiscal year, ended June 30, 1879, were $273,827,184 46. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were $266,947,083 53, leaving a surplus revenue for the year of $6,879,300 93. The receipts for the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1880, actual and estimated, are as follows: Actual receipts for the first quarter, commencing July 1, 1879, $79,843,633 61; estimated receipts for the remaining three-quarters of the year, $208,156,336 39; Total receipts for the current fiscal year, actual and estimated, $288,000,000. The expenditures for the same period will be, actual and estimated, as follows: For the quarter commencing July 1, 1879, actual expenditures, $91,683,385 10; and for the remaining three-quarters of the year, the expenditures are estimated at $172,316,614 90, making the total expenditures $264,000,000, and leaving an estimated surplus revenue for the year ending June 30, 1880, of $24,000,000.

The total receipt during the next fiscal year, ending June 30, 1881, estimated according to existing laws, will be $288,000,000, and the estimated ordinary expenditures for the same period will be $278,097,364.39, leaving a surplus of $9,902 635.61 for that year. The large amount expended for arrears of pensions during the last and the present fiscal year, amounting to $21,747,249.60, has prevented the application of the full amount required by law to the sinking fund for the current year, but these arrears having been substantially paid, it is believed that the sinking fund can hereafter be maintained without any change of existing law.

THE ARMY AND NAVY.

The secretary of war reports that the war department estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are $40,380,428.93, the same being for a less sum of money than any annual estimate rendered to Congress from that department during a period of at least twelve years. He concurs with the general of the army in recommending such legislation as will authorize the enlistment of the full number of 25,000 men for the line of the army, exclusive of the 3,460 men required for the detached duty, and therefore not available for service in the field. He also recommends that Congress be asked to provide by law for the disposition of a large number of abandoned military posts and reservations, which, though very valuable in themselves, have been rendered useless for military purposes by the advance of civilization and settlement. He unites with the quartermaster-general in recommending that an appropriation be made for the construction of a cheap and perfectly fire proof building for the safe storage of a vast amount of money, accounts, vouchers, claims, and other valuable records, now in the quartermaster-general's office, and exposed to great risk of total destruction by fire. He also recommends, in conformity with the views of the judge advocate-general, some declaratory legislation in reference to the military statute of limitations, as applied to the crime of desertion. In these several recommendations I concur. The secretary of war further reports that the work for the improvement of the South Pass of the Mississippi river, under contract with Mr. James B. Eads, made in pursuance of an act of Congress, has been prosecuted during the past year, with a greater measure of success in the attainment of results than during any previous year. The channel through the South Pass which, at the beginning of June, 1875, had a depth of only seven and one-half feet of water, had, on the eighth of July, 1879, a minimum depth of twenty-six feet, having a width of not less than 200 feet and a central depth of thirty feet. Payments have been made in accordance with the statute as the work progressed, amounting in the aggregate to $4,250,000, and further payments will become due, as provided by the statute, in event of success in maintaining the channel now secured. The reports of the general of the army and of his subordinates present a full and detailed account of the military operations for the repression of hostilities among the Indians of the Ute and Apache tribes, and praise is justly awarded to the officers and troops engaged, for promptness, skill and courage displayed. The past year has been one of almost unbroken peace and quiet on the Mexican frontier, and there is reason to believe that the efforts of this government and of Mexico to maintain order in that region will prove permanently successful. This department was enabled, during the past year, to find temporary though crowded accommodations and a safe depository for a portion of its records in the completed east wing of the building designed for the State, war and navy departments. The construction of the north wing of the building, a part of the structure intended for the use of the war department, is being carried forward with all possible dispatch, and the work should receive from Congress such liberal appropriations as will secure its speedy completion.

The report of the secretary of the navy shows continued improvement in that branch of the service during the last fiscal year. Extensive repairs have been made upon vessels, and two new ships have been completed and made [illegible] for sea. The total expenditures [illegible] year ended June 30, 1879, [illegible] specific appropriations not [illegible]

Mason's

ne department, were $13,555,-

The expenses chargeable to the after deducting the amount of

ese specific appropriations, were $13,-343,317.79, but this is subject to a reduction of $283,725.99, that amount having been drawn upon warrants, but not paid out during the year. The amount of appropriations applicable to the last fiscal year was $14,538,646 17. There was, therefore, a balance of $1,479,051 37 remaining unexpended and to the credit of the department on June 30, 1879. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881 are $14,864,147 95, which exceeds the appropriations for the present fiscal year $361,897 28. The reason for this increase is explained in the secretary's report. The appropriations available for the present fiscal year are $14,502,250 67, which will, in the opinion of the secretary, answer all the ordinary demands of the service. The amount drawn from the treasury from July 1 to Nov. 1, 1879, was $5,770,404 12, of which $1,095,440 33 has been refunded, leaving as the expenditure, for that period $4,674,963.79. If the expenditures of the remaining two-thirds of the year do not exceed the proportion for these four months, there will remain unexpended at the end of the year $477,359.30 of the current appropriations. The report of the secretary shows the gratifying fact that among all the disbursing officers of the pay corps of the navy, there is not one who is a defaulter to the extent of a single dollar. I unite with him in recommending the removal of the observatory to a more healthful location. That institution reflects credit upon the nation, and has obtained the approbation of scientific men in all parts of the world. Its removal from its present locality would not only be conducive to the health of its officers and professors, but would greatly increase its usefulness.

The appropriation for judicial expenses, which has heretofore been made for the department of justice in gross, was subdivided at the last session of Congress, and no appropriation whatever was made for the payment of the fees of marshals and their deputies, either in the service of process or for the discharge of other duties, and since June 30 these officers have continued the performance of their [illegible] without compensation from the government, taking upon themselves the necessary incidental outlays as well as rendering their own services. In only a few unavoidable instances has the proper execution of the process of the United States failed by reason of the absence of the requisite appropriation. This course of official conduct on the part of these officers, highly creditable to their fidelity, was advised by the attorney-general, who informed them, however, that they would necessarily have to rely for their compensation upon the prospect of future legislation by Congress. I therefore especially recommend that immediate appropriations be made by Congress for this purpose. The act making the principal appropriation for the department of justice at previous sessions has uniformly contained the following clause: "And for defraying the expenses which may be incurred in the enforcement of the act approved Feb. 28, 1870, entitled An act to amend an act approved May 30, 1870, entitled An act to enforce the right of the citizens of the United States to vote in the several States of the United States, and for other purposes, or for any acts amendatory thereof, or supplementary thereto." No appropriation was made for this purpose for the current year. As no general election of members of Congress occurred, the omission was a matter of little practical importance. Such election will, however, take place during the ensuing year, and the appropriation made for the pay of marshals and deputies should be sufficient to embrace compensation for the services they may be required to perform at such election.

OTHER BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The business of the supreme court is at present largely in arrears. It cannot be expected that more causes can be decided than are now disposed of in its annual session, or that by any assiduity the distinguished magistrates who compose the court can accomplish more than is now done. In the courts of many of the circuits, also, the business has increased to such an extent that the delay of justice will call the attention of Congress to an appropriate remedy. It is believed that all is done in each circuit which can fairly be expected from its judicial force. The evils arising from delay are less heavily felt by the United States than by private suitors, as its causes are advanced by the courts when it is seen that they involve the discussions of questions of a public character. The remedy suggested by the attorney-general is the appointment of additional circuit judges, and the creation of an intermediate court of errors and appeals, which shall relieve the supreme court of a part of its jurisdiction while a larger force is also obtained for the performance of circuit duties. I commend this suggestion to the consideration of Congress. It would seem to afford a complete remedy, and would involve if ten additional circuit judges are appointed, an expenditure, at the present rate of salaries, of not more than $60,000 a year, which would certainly be small in comparison with the objects to be attained.

The report of the postmaster-general bears testimony to the general revival of business throughout the country. The receipts of the post-office department for the year ending June 30, 1879, were $30,041,982.86, being $764,465.91 more than the revenues of the preceding year. The amount realized from the sale of postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards was $764,465.91 more than in the preceding year, and $2,387,559.23 more than in 1877. The expenditures of the department were $33,449,899.45, of which the sum of $376,461.63 was paid on liabilities incurred in the preceding year. The expenditures during the year, were $801,209.77 less than in the preceding year. This reduction is attributed mainly to the operation of the law passed June 17, 1878, changing the compensation of postmasters from a commission on the value of stamps sold, to a commission on stamps canceled. The amount drawn from the treasury on appropriations, in addition to the revenues of the department, was $3,031,454.94, being $2,276,197.56 less than in the preceding year. The expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are estimated at $39,920,900, and the receipts from all sources at $32,210,000, leaving a deficiency to be appropriated for out of the treasury of $7,710,900. The relations of the department with railroad companies have been harmonized, notwithstanding the general reduction by Congress of their compensation, by the appropriation for special facilities. The railway postoffice lines have been greatly extended, especially in the Southern States. The interests of the railway mail service and of the public would be greatly promoted and the expenditures could be more readily controlled, by the classification of the employees of the railway mail service as recommended by the postmaster-general, the appropriation for salaries, with respect to which the maximum limit is already fixed by law, to be made in gross. The postmaster-general recommends an amendment of the law regulating the increase of compensation for increased service and increased speed in star routes, so as to enable him to advertise for proposals for such increased service and speed. He also suggests the advantages to accrue to the commerce of the country from the enactment of a general law authorizing contracts with American built steamers, carrying the American flag, for transporting the mails between ports of the United States and ports of the West Indies and South America, at a fixed maximum price per mile; the amount to be expended being regulated by annual appropriations, in like manner with the amount paid for the domestic star service. The arrangement made by the postmaster-general and the secretary of the treasury for the collection of duty upon books received in the mail from foreign countries has proved so satisfactory in its practical operation that the recommendation is now made that Congress shall extend the provisions of the act of March 3, 1879, under which this arrangement was made, so as to apply to all other dutiable articles received in the mails from foreign countries.

THE INDIAN WARDS.

The reports of the secretary of the interior and of the commission of Indian affairs, setting forth the present state of our relations with the Indian tribes on our territory, the measures taken to advance their civilization and prosperity, and the progress already achieved by them, will be found of more than ordinary interest. The general conduct of [illegible] Indian population has been so satisfactory [illegible] occurrence of two disturbances, which [illegible] bloodshed and destruction of property [illegible] the more to be lamented. The [illegible] outbreak on the White river Ute reservation, in western Colorado, has become so familiar by elaborate reports in the public press that its remarkable incidents need not to be stated here in detail. It is expected that the settlement of this difficulty will lead to such arrangements as will prevent further hostile contact between the Indians and the border settlements in western Colorado. The other disturbance occurred at the Mescalero agency, in New Mexico, where Victoria, the head of a small band of marauders, after committing many atrocities, being vigorously chased by a military force, made his way across the Mexican border, and is now on foreign soil.

While these occurrences, in which a comparatively small number of Indians were engaged, are most deplorable, a vast majority of our Indian population have fully justified the expectations of those who believed that by humane and peaceful influences, the Indian can be led to abandon the habits of savage life and to develop a capacity for useful and civilized occupations. What they have already accomplished in the pursuit of agricultural and mechanical work, the remarkable success which has attended the experiment of employing as freighters a class of Indians hitherto counted among the wildest and most intractable, and the general and urgent desire expressed by them for the education of their children, may be taken as sufficient proof that they will be found capable of accomplishing much more if they continue to be wisely and fairly guided. The Indian policy sketched in the report of the secretary of the interior, the object of which is to make liberal provision for the education of Indian youth, to settle the Indians upon farm lots in severalty, to give them title in fee to their farms, inalienable for a certain number of years, and when their wants are thus provided for, to dispose by sale of the lands on their reservations not occupied and used by them, a fund to be formed out of the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians, which will gradually relieve the government of the expenses now provided for by annual appropriations, must commend itself as just and beneficial to the Indians, and as also calculated to remove those obstructions which the existence of large reservations presents to the settlement and development of the country. I therefore earnestly recommend the enactment of a law enabling the government to give Indians a title in fee inalienable for twenty-five years, to the farm lands assigned to them by allotment. I also repeat the recommendation made in my first annual message that a law be passed admitting Indians who can give satisfactory proof of having by their own labor supported their families for a number of years, and who are willing to detach themselves from their tribal relations, to the benefit of the homestead act, and to grant them patents containing the same provisions of inalienability for a certain period. The experiment of sending a number of Indian children of both sexes to the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia to receive an elementary English education and practical instruction in farming and other useful industries, has led to results so promising that it was thought expedient to turn over the cavalry barracks at Carlisle, in Pennsylvania, to the interior department, for the establishment of an Indian school on a larger scale. This school has now 158 pupils, selected from various tribes, and is in full operation. Arrangements are also made for the education of a number of Indian boys and girls, belonging to tribes on the Pacific slope, in a similar manner, at Forest Grove, in Oregon. These institutions will commend themselves to the liberality of Congress and to the philanthropic munificence of the American people.

Last spring information was received of the organization of an extensive movement in the Western States, the object of which was the occupation, by unauthorized persons, of certain lands in the Indian Territory ceded by the Cherokees to the government for the purpose of settlement by other Indian tribes. On the twenty-ninth of April I issued a proclamation warning all persons against participation in such an attempt, and, by the co-operation of a military force, the invasion was promptly checked. It is my purpose to protect the rights of the Indian inhabitants of that Territory to the full extent of the executive power; but it would be unwise to ignore the fact that a Territory so large and so fertile, with a population so sparse and so great a wealth of unused resources, will be found more exposed to the repetition of such attempts as happened this year when the surrounding States are more densely settled and the westward movement of our population looks still more eagerly for fresh lands to occupy. Under such circumstances the difficulty of maintaining the Indian Territory in its present state will greatly increase, and the Indian tribes inhabiting it would do well to prepare for such a contingency. I therefore fully approve of the advice given to them by the secretary of the interior to divide among themselves in severalty as large a quantity of their lands as they can cultivate, to acquire individual titles in fee, instead of their present tribal ownership in common, and to consider in what matter the balance of their lands may be disposed of by the government for their benefit. By adopting such a policy they would more certainly secure for themselves the value of their possessions, and at the same time promote their progress in civilization and prosperity, than by endeavoring to perpetuate the present state of things in the Territory. The question whether a change in the control of the Indian service should be made was, in the Forty-fifth Congress, referred to a joint committee of both houses for inquiry and report. In my last annual message I expressed the hope that the decision of that question then in prospect "would arrest further agitation of this subject, such agitation being apt to produce a disturbing effect upon the service, as well as the Indians themselves." Since then, the committee having reported, the question has been decided in the negative by a vote in the House of Representatives for the reasons here stated, and in view of the fact that further uncertainty on this point will be calculated to obstruct other much-needed legislation, to weaken the discipline of the service, and to unsettle salutary measures now in progress for the government and improvement of the Indians, I respectfully recommend that the decision arrived at by Congress at its last session be permitted to stand.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

Efforts made by the department of the interior to arrest the depredations on the timber lands of the United States have been continued, and have met with considerable success. A large number of cases of trespass have been prosecuted in the courts of the United States. Others have been settled, the trespassers offering to make payment to the government for the value of the timber taken by them. The proceeds of these prosecutions and settlements, turned into the treasury, far exceed in amount the sums appropriated by Congress for this purpose. A more important result, however, consists in the fact that the destruction of our public forests by depredations although such cases still occur, has been greatly reduced in extent, and it is probable that if the present policy is vigorously pursued and sufficient provision to that end is made by Congress, such trespasses, at least those on a large scale can be entirely suppressed, except in the territories where timber for daily requirements of the populations cannot, under the present state of the law, be otherwise obtained. I therefore earnestly invite the attention of Congress to the recommendation made by the secretary of the interior, that a law be enacted enabling the government to sell timber from the public lands, without conveying the fee, where such lands are principally valuable for the timber thereon, such sales to be so regulated as to conform to domestic wants and business requirements, while at the same time guarding against a sweeping destruction of the forests. The enactment of such a law appears to become a more pressing necessity every day.

AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION.

My recommendations in former messages are renewed, in favor of enlarging the facilities of the department of agriculture. Agriculture is the leading interest and the permanent industry of our people. It is to the abundance of agricultural production, as compared with our home consumption and the largely-increased and highly profitable market abroad which we have enjoyed in recent years, that we are mainly indebted for our present prosperity as a people. We must look for its continued maintenance to the same substantial resource. There is no branch of industry in which labor, directed by scientific knowledge, yields such increased production in comparison with unskilled labor, and no branch of the public service to which the encouragement of liberal appropriations can be more appropriately extended. The omission to render such aid is not a wise economy, but, on the contrary undoubtedly results in losses of immense sums annually that might be saved through well-directed efforts by the government to promote this vital interest. The results already accomplished with the very limited means heretofore placed at the command of the department of agriculture is an earnest of what may be expected, with increased appropriations for the several purposes indicated in the report of the commissioner, with a view to placing the department upon a footing which will enable it to prosecute more effectively the objects for which it is established. Appropriations are needed for a more complete laboratory, for the establishment of a veterinary division and a division of forestry, and for an increase of force. The requirements for these and other purposes indicated in the report of the commissioner, under the head of the immediate necessities of the department, will not involve any expenditure of money that the country cannot with propriety now undertake in the interests of agriculture.

It is gratifying to learn from the bureau of education the extent to which educational privileges throughout the United States have been advanced during the year. No more fundamental responsibility rests upon Congress than that of devising appropriate measures of financial aid to education, supplemental to local action in the States and Territories and in the District of Columbia. The wise forethought of the founders of our government has not only furnished the basis for the support of the common-school systems of the newer States, but laid the foundations for the maintenance of their universities and colleges of agriculture and the mechanical arts. Measures in accordance with this traditional policy, for the further benefit of all these interests, and the extension of the same advantages to every portion of the country, it is hoped will receive your favorable consideration. To preserve and perpetuate the national literature should be among the foremost cares of the national legislature. The library gathered at the Capitol still remains unprovided with any suitable accommodations for its rapidly increasing stores. The magnitude and importance of the collection, increased as it is by the deposits made under the law of copyright, by domestic and foreign exchanges, and by the scientific library of the Smithsonian Institution, call for building accommodations which shall be at once equal and fireproof. The location of such a public building, which should provide for the pressing necessities of the present, and for the vast increase of the nation's books in the future is a matter which addresses itself to the discretion of Congress. It is earnestly recommended as a measure which should unite all suffrages, and which should no longer be delayed.

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

The joint commission created by the act of Congress of August 2, 1876, for the purpose of supervising and directing the completion of the Washington national monument, of which commission the President is a member, has given careful attention to this subject, and already the strengthening of the foundation has so far progressed as to insure the entire success of this part of the work. A massive layer of masonry has been introduced below the original foundation, widening the base, increasing the stability of the structure, and rendering it possible to carry the shaft to completion. It is earnestly recommended that such further appropriations be made for the continued prosecution of the work as may be necessary for the completion of this national monument at an early day.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

In former messages, impressed with the importance of the subject, I have taken occasion to commend to Congress the adoption of a generous policy toward the District of Columbia. The report of the commissioners of the District, herewith transmitted, contains suggestions and recommendations, to all of which I earnestly invite your careful attention. I ask your early and favorable consideration of the views which they express as to the urgent need of legislation for the reclamation of the marshes of the Potomac and its eastern branch, within the limits of the city and for the repair of the streets of the capital heretofore laid with wooden blocks, and now by decay rendered almost impassable and a source of imminent danger to the health of its citizens. The means at the disposal of the commissioners are wholly inadequate for the accomplishment of these important works, and should be supplemented by timely appropriations from the Federal treasury. The filling of the flats in front of the city will add to the adjacent lands and parks, now owned by the United States, a large and valuable domain, sufficient, it is thought, to reimburse its entire cost, and will also, as an incidental result, secure the permanent improvement of the river for the purposes of navigation. The Constitution having invested Congress with supreme and exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, its citizens must of necessity look to Congress alone for all needful legislation affecting their interests, and as the territory of this District is the common property of the people of the United States, who, equally with its resident citizens, are interested in the prosperity of their capital, I cannot doubt that you will be amply sustained by the general voice of the country in any measures you may adopt for this purpose. I also invite the favorable consideration of Congress to the wants of the public schools of this District, as exhibited in the report of the commissioners. While the number of pupils is rapidly increasing, no adequate provision exists for a corresponding increase of school accommodation, and the commissioners are without the means to meet this urgent need. A number of the buildings now used for school purposes are rented, and are, in important particulars, unsuited for the purpose. The cause of popular education in the District of Columbia is surely entitled to the same consideration at the hands of the national government as in the several States and Territories, to which munificent grants of the public lands have been made for the endowment of schools and universities.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES.
Executive Mansion, Dec. 1, 1879.

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A. D., 1880, [illegible]
each of said da[illegible]
Dated this [illegible]

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The Secretary of War's Report.

The annual report of the operations of the war department for the last year has been issued. The report of the general of the army gives in detail the strength of the several branches of the service, and shows the aggregate, as exhibited in the latest returns, to be 2,187 officers, 24,262 men, and 388 officers retired. The signal corps, the ordnance sergeants, the commissary sergeants, the West Point detachment, the prison guard at Fort Leavenworth and the recruiting detachments amount to 3,463 enlisted men, and are not employed in the field. The secretary of war joins heartily with the general of the army in recommending that the effective force of the line of the army be raised to 25,000 men, exclusive of those detachments, for the safety of settlers upon the frontiers. It is undeniable, the report says, that most if not all the disasters attending Indian hostilities are the result of inadequacy of military force. Since the close of the late war fifty-five officers have been killed in Indian warfare and a corresponding number wounded, beside a proportionate number of men killed and wounded.

The actual expenses of the war department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1879, were $42,653,723.62. The estimates for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1881, are $40,380,428.93.

There were in service on June 30, 10,990 horses and 10,032 mules, which, with an army of 25,000 men, is about 100 beasts to 120 men.

Our army is thoroughly provided with transportation and is always on a war footing.

The military cemeteries, eighty in number, are in good order. The work of marking the graves in military cemeteries with marble and granite headstones is practically completed. Contracts have been left for placing marble headstones on the graves of soldiers who died during the war and were buried in private village or city cemeteries, and whose friends have not been able to do this honor to their memory.

The total number of deaths from all causes reported among the white troops was 266. Of these 162 died of disease, and 104 of wounds, accidents and injuries. Six hundred and seventy-seven white soldiers are reported to have been discharged the service on "Surgeon's certificate of disability." The total number of deaths of colored soldiers reported from all causes was twenty-eight. Of these fifteen died of disease and thirteen of wounds, accidents and injuries.

The Secretary of the Interior's Report.

In his report of the condition of the affairs of the Interior Department, Secretary Schurz says that the difficulties connected with what is styled the "Indian problem" have been steadily growing in consequence of the demand for Western lands for agricultural and mining purposes.

Speaking of the presence of troops among the Indians, Mr. Schurz says that it is an error to suppose that the constant presence of force is necessary to keep the tribes quiet. Of the seventy-one Indian agencies, eleven have military posts in their immediate vicinity, and fourteen with a military post within three days' march. Of the four disturbances within the last two years, three occurred in the immediate presence of military force. He says: "While I am by no means disposed to belittle the deplorable nature of Indian disturbances or the great value of a military force in suppressing them, it is but just to the Indians to point out the important fact that disturbance and hostility is the exception and peaceful conduct the rule; that a very large majority of Indian reservations are in a condition of uninterrupted quiet, without the presence of a coercing force."

Mr. Schurz's "Indian policy" is defined thus: "First, to set the Indians to work as agriculturists or herders, thus to break up their habits of savage life and to make them self-supporting; second, to educate their youth of both sexes so as to introduce to the growing generation civilized ideas, wants and aspirations; third, to allot parcels of land to Indians in severalty, and to give them individual title to their farms in fee inalienable for a certain period, thus to foster the pride of individual ownership of property, instead of their former dependence upon the tribe with its territory held in common; fourth, when settlement in severalty with individual title is accomplished, to dispose, with their consent, of those lands on their reservations which are not settled and used by them, the proceeds to form a fund for their benefit, which will gradually relieve the government of the expenses at present provided for by annual appropriations; fifth, when this is accomplished, to treat the Indians like other inhabitants of the United States under the laws of the land."

The report concludes with remarks on the generally encouraging state of Indian affairs, and with the recommendation that a law be enacted to authorize the sale of timber from public lands under the direct supervision of government officers, and that a commission be appointed, composed of qualified persons, to study the laws and practices adopted in other countries for the preservation and cultivation of forests.

The Sea Shell Traffic.

The trade in sea shells is principally in the hands of a single Philadelphia firm who recently received a cargo of 20,000 of what are termed the "common conches," and which wholesale at five dollars to six dollars per 100. They are brought from the Bahamas at a very cheap rate, as they make excellent ballast. The shells are gathered by negroes who fish them out of the water with long poles. The "queen conch" is a much rarer shell, and has to be dived for. The wholesale price is twenty dollars per 100. At all inland places the shells are in great demand.

There are in California 150,000 goats and in the Pacific territories 50,000 making a total of 200,000 on the Pacific slope.

STILL ANOTHER

Important Discovery!

Nature Again Discloses Her Secrets for the Benefit of Mankind.

How the Suffering may find Relief.

GOOD CHEER TO ALL AFFLICTED.

Cures Effected by the

HAWAIIAN CATARRH REMEDY!

A Disagreeable Disease Avoided and Cured by its use.

The receipt for making this WONDERFUL REMEDY was obtained by James J. Peavey, while living in Honolulu, Hawaiian Island, where he resided for more than twelve years.

Mr. Peavey at that time, was suffering from catarrh, and with many doubts as to the curative properties of this remedy, he compounded a small quantity, and began to use as directed. To his surprise and joy he found relief after the first trial, and in a short time he was entirely cured.

Mr. Peavey afterwards put this remedy up in small quantities and sold and gave it away to his friends; but not until recently has he consented to have it prepared and thoroughly introduced to the world.

It is a sure relief and cure for Catarrh in its worst forms.

One trial of the remedy is its best testimonial. Sure relief is within the reach of all who are willing to give it a single trial.

It is harmless, convenient to take at any time, and its good effects are sure to be felt as soon as the remedy is applied.

This is entirely different from any other snuff in the market, as every particle is dissolved as soon as it comes in contact with the delicate membranous coatings that line the nasal passages, acting as it does directly upon the mucus membrane.

Do not delay another day, but send 35 cents and obtain a sample box by return mail.

☞For sale by all Druggists.

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WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
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GENERAL AGENTS.
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DR. C. W. BENSON'S CELERY and CHAMOMILE PILLS are prepared expressly to cure Sick Headache, Nervous Headache, Dyspeptic Headache, Neuralgia and Nervousness, and will cure any case. Price 50 cents, postage free. Parsons, Bangs & Co., Portland, General Agents. o21-w1y

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Chew Jackson's Best Sweet Navy Tobacco.

One Experience from Many.

"I had been sick and miserable so long and had caused my husband so much trouble and expense, no one seemed to know what ailed me, that I was completely disheartened and discouraged. In this frame of mind I got a bottle of Hop Bitters and used them unknown to my family. I soon began to improve and gained so fast that my husband and family thought it strange and unnatural, but when I told them what had helped me, they said 'Hurrah for Hop Bitters! long may they prosper, for they have made mother well and us happy.'"—The Mother.

Have you these dangerous symptoms? Cough, pain in the side or breast, fever, short breath, night sweats, tickling, rising or soreness in the throat, diarrhea, nervous debility, asthmatic or bronchial affections; if so, use at once *Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam.* Trial bottles, 10 cts.; larger bottles, 35 and 75 cts.

LYDIA E. PINKHAM'S VEGETABLE COMPOUND has done thousands of women more good than the medicines of many doctors. It is a positive cure for all female complaints. Send to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass., for pamphlets.

BORN.

In Mason, Nov. 17, to Samuel L. Bean and wife, a son.

MARRIED.

In Oxford, Nov. 27, by Rev. Charles E. Bisbee, Colby W. Bean of Lowell, Mass., and Etta M. Downing of Oxford.

In Albany, Nov. 26, by Rev. B. Foster, Mr John Hapgood of Bethel, and Miss Inez A. Haywood of Albany.

Weather Report.

Temperature last week at 7 A. M.

Sunday, 16° clear; Monday, 10° clear; Tuesday, 28° cloudy; Wednesday, 32° cloudy; Thursday, 28° cloudy; Friday, 28° clear; Saturday, 32° cloudy.

Feeble Ladies.

Those languid, tiresome sensations, causing you to feel scarcely able to be on your feet; that constant drain that is taking from your system all its elasticity; driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces, rendering you irritable and fretful, can easily be removed by the use of that marvelous remedy, Hop Bitters. Irregularities and obstructions of your system are relieved at once, while the special cause of periodical pain is permanently removed. Will you heed this?

A. E. SHAW,
DENTIST,
PARIS, MAINE.
Office over POST OFFICE.—REAR ROOM.
Office hours from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.
Ether administered when thought advisable.—All work warranted.

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Are the mildest, yet most searching Pill ever taken. Cures Headache, Liver Complaint, and Regulates the Stomach and Bowels without sickening or griping, or leaving the Bowels in a constipated state. A Specific for Fever and Ague.

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PAMPHLET for advertisers, 100 pages, 10 cents. G. P. ROWELL & CO., N. Y

Commissioners' Notice.

THE undersigned having been appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the county of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of September, A. D. 1879, commissioners to receive and examine the claims of creditors against the estate of Caleb Rowe, late of Bethel in the county of Oxford, deceased, represented insolvent, hereby give notice that six months from the date of said appointment are allowed to said creditors, in which to present and prove their claims, and that they will be in session at the following place and times for the purpose of receiving the same, to wit: At the office of David Hammons, in said Bethel on the first Saturdays of January, February and March, A. D., 1880, at one of the clock in the afternoon of each of said days.

Dated this fifth day of December A. D. 1879.

DAVID HAMMONS.
GOODWIN R. WILEY.

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OXFORD COUNTY LOCALS.

ALBANY, Dec. 1.—Mrs. Pattee, who resides at Bethel, has recently sold her real estate in Albany for the sum of four thousand dollars. It comprises about 2000 acres of timber and wood, two saw mills and other mills for the manufacture of small lumber, generally known as "Pattee's Mill's." Since the death of Mr. Pattee, some three years ago, but little has been done. The purchaser, A. S. Bean, of West Bethel is an enterprising young man of large business capacity and will make business lively again in that part of the town.

Mr. Williams, last spring imported five sheep from England, from which he sheared 75 and 1-2 lbs. of wool. He is so well pleased with them that he has recently imported ten more of the same breed, and has just sent an order for thirty more. He also has a few nice South Downs, which he thinks will do well to cross with the Cotswold. Mr. Williams intends to feed largely on turnips, having raised the the last season 1,400 bushels of the Swedish turnip on *one acre.*

Rev. A. L. Payson of Mass., is now supplying the Congregational church.

Our schools are generally in progress, some of them are nearly through as our schools have generally commenced earlier than usual; a very good move.

Potatoes continue to rot in the cellars.

There is about the same amount of logging to be done in this vicinity this winter as usual. L.

BRYANT'S POND, Dec. 3.—The Bryant's Pond Reform Club held their anniversary on Sunday, Nov. 30th. Owing to the condition of the roads there was no assistance from other clubs, consequently we had to depend on home talent, with the exception of Rev. I. G. Sprague of Andover, and he is a host in himself on the subject of temperance. The meeting opened at 2 o'clock p. m., and was very ably supported by Messrs. Sprague, Dunham and Farnum. Mr. Sprague showed in a very clear and impressive manner the meaning of the Scripture in regard to temperance. The meeting was adjourned till evening.

The evening meeting was very well attended, and there were some very interesting speeches, by Messrs. Sprague, Dunham, Farnum, Ricker, Stevens, and others, interspersed with select readings and very choice selections from the temperance choir. I think, considering the bad traveling, there was a good attendance, and the meeting was a success. The attendance to our meetings is increasing.

SECRETARY.

The citizens of Bryant's Pond and vicinity are making strenuous efforts for the erection of a spool mill. There has been a call made for a town meeting, to see what action the town would take in the matter. S.

Dec. 5.—The winter school in the village commenced last Monday. Wm. W. Andrews of Paris has charge of the Grammar department, and Miss Carrie Houghton of this place, the Primary.

The members of the Universalist Social Circle will present "Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works," at Town Hall, Thursday evening, Dec. 18.

A. M. Burton, esq., who formerly resided here, is now Principal of Camden Academy.

H. H. Cushman of North Woodstock, is cutting and hauling timber for a new house, to be built next spring.

H. C. Bacon is teaching in Greenwood, and J. A. Gallison in Norway.

The next Universalist Sewing Circle will be at Mrs. Otis Dudley's, Thursday evening, Jan. 1.

Wood haulers are anxiously waiting for sledding.

C. R. Houghton keeps a large stock of tinware, stoves, etc., on hand

BAILEY.

EAST BUCKFIELD, Nov. 29.—Died at East Buckfield, Nov. 26, Levi Gammon, aged ninety-two years. Services at the church by Rev. Mr. Crockett of Canton, on the 27th. Mr. David Gammon moved into Buckfield when his son Levi was three years old; the son lived on the same farm where he died over eighty years. He belonged to the Free Baptist Church at this place more than sixty years.

Died at East Buckfield, Nov. 26, Melvin A. Allen, aged forty-five years, 8 months, after many months of painful sickness. Rev. Mr. French of Turner delivered an address at the dwelling house on the 29th, founded on John XIV:1. He was one of the sixteen petitioners for a charter for Crystal Wave Lodge of Good Templars, twelve yers ago, of whom thirteen are now living, and the eighth member the Wave has lost by death. He was an active member, honoring the many offices to which he was chosen, including the W. C. T. and L. D. He was one of the ten members of the Wave who resolved to lead the Christain life at the 3 o'clock Sabbath meetings, at this place, conducted by J. B. Jordan of Auburn. He leaves a wife and son who will feel the loss of a good husband and kind father, and the town a good citizen.

HARTFORD.

FRYEBURG.—Miss Pike's trained Juvenile Pinafore company presented that charming opera at Court Hall, Thursday evening—it being a benefit for their teacher, Miss Pike. Following is a cast of characters, and a list of the parts presented. We are free to say it was one of the finest pieces of amateur acting we ever saw. The parts were all well done, the costumes were perfect, and each member of the company entered into the spirit of the play. Miss Pike was highly complimented by the "immense" house which greeted her, but even more praise was given her by the exhibition of her skill in training this company of little people to such perfection.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., First Lord of the Admiralty, Nellie Eastman; Capt. Corcoran, commanding H. M. S. Pinafore, Phil Perry; Ralph Rackstraw, able seaman, Mattie Randall; Dick Deadeye, able seaman, Charlie Morris; Bill Bobstay, boatswain, M. G. Howe; Tom Tucker, midshipmite, Villie Gordon; Josephine, the Captain's daughter, May Weston; Hebe, Sir Joseph's First Cousin, Leah Barker; Little Buttercup, a Portsmouth bumboat woman, Mattie Howe; First Lord's Sisters, his cousins, his aunts, sailors, etc., by chorus of 25.

Act I.—Opening Chorus; "I'm called Little Buttercup;" Recitative; "The Nightingale's Song;" "A maiden fair to see;" "My Gallant Crew;" "Sir, you are sad;" "O'er the bright blue sea;" "We sail the ocean blue;" "Now give three cheers;" "When I was a lad;" "For I hold that on the seas;" "Admiral's song;" "Can I survive this overbearing."

Act II.—"Fair Moon;" "Things are seldom what they seem;" "Bell Trio;" "The Merry Maiden and the Tar;" "Carefully on Tiptoe Stealing;" "He is an Englishman," "Farewell, My Own;" "Baby Farming;" "O Bliss! O Rapture!" "O Joy! O Rapture!"

MASON, Dec. 2.—The weather is very changeable. We have had snow—cold winds—big snow drifts—and then had a smart rain storm, and quite a freshet. It is mild now and more rain is promised. Cattle are in the fields and come up full at night.

News is scarce, business is lively, everybody will have enough to do as soon as snow comes sufficient for logging. Help is scarce, more inquiry being made for choppers to go into the woods than for several years past. There has been a loud call for oxen suitable for lumbering.

Hay appears to be plenty, and the price, at present, rules low. Corn and meal are held at 75c. per bushel. Butter brings a good price, and those who have made the usual amount, notwithstanding the hard look in the early part of the season, are feeling much pleased, and cows are not so much of a drug in the market as last year.

Our farmers have had a fine season for fall work, and there has been a great amount done.

Our Methodist society has procured the services of Mr. A. D. Witham of Denmark for the remainder of the Conference year, and they now have preaching each Sabbath in the Chapel in this place, which gives general satisfaction. The Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition; a good attendance at all times.

Our school is taught by J. H. Bean, esq. This is his third term here. There is a good Lyceum in connection with the school, which is very interesting; J. H. Bean, President, and I. A. Bean, Secretary. It meets each Wednesday evening. Last Wednesday evening the discussion was upon the following resolution:

Resolved, That modern inventions are of more benefit to the mechanical and mercantile world than to the agricultural.

The speakers were, J. Hastings Bean of Mason, and Elbridge G. Wheeler, esq. of West Bethel, on the Aff.; and I. A. Bean of Mason, and David B. Dow of West Paris, on the Neg. The discussion was animated and instructive. The question was decided in the Negative by a large majority. They have, also, declamations, recitations, select reading, and a paper. These Lyceums are conducted in a manner to promise much good; there is good attendance, good order, and a good degree of interest. The only drawback is, the boys do not take hold of the discussions as the "old boys" would like to have them.

J. C. Bean and J. C. Stiles have gone to Berlin, N. H., for the winter; others will go soon.

N. G. Mills is making arrangments to haul a large lot of Birch from Little Pond to A. S. Bean's Steam Mills, at West Bethel. Other parties are intending to deliver smaller quantities if the winter should be favorable.

Isaac S. Morrill of North Albany, has commenced operation on his Steam Mill near the old Chapman Mill, north of the Androscoggin, in Bethel. He is planning for a large business this winter, preparing spool stock.

Mrs. Cyrene J. Bean of Mason, had a tumor taken from her side last Saturday, which has troubled her for a long time. The operation was performed by Dr. J. A. Twaddle of Bethel. I understand she is doing finely.

Hastings & Sanderson have teams in the woods in what is called Fryeburg Academy Grant and Bachelder's Grant, parading or yarding timber on the side of the mountain commonly called Caribou. They will employ a number of teams; the timber is to be landed on Peabody's brook near the rail road bridge. E. R. Morrill of Mason puts in one team for them. They begin to feel anxious for snow. This timber is mostly spruce and has to be hauled about four miles. G. H. B.

NORWAY.—Mr. Amos Packard has rented his double tenement house to Messrs. Sam'l Freeman and Adna Keene, and has moved to Lynn, where he will open a first-class boarding-house.

Mr. John Witherell has been confined to his room by sickness for several weeks past, but is now able to walk out.

Mr. Sam'l Freeman, while at work at the tannery one day last week, had his foot badly jammed by a stick of timber falling upon it.

Chas. Cummings' mill is slowly approaching completion. The same may be said of Mr. John Wilson's planing mill.

The Methodist church now looks very nicely. The spire, completed during the past week, is of tasty design, and shows the skill of Mr. Richardson, builder. The building will probably be ready for use in a few weeks.

The freight and passenger depots of the N. B. R. R. are in process of erection, the former being nearly completed. Quite a number of freight cars have already been forwarded to Norway, as our leading shippers cannot afford to wait till the road is formally opened.

What with the fashionable ladies' hats and ulsters, the greatest mystery to the young man out for an evening promenade, is whether the person he just met was a gent or lady; at least, that is what bothered a Norway gent one evening not long since.

Dec. 6.—Gen. S. Clifford Belcher, of the Governor's Staff was in town on Monday of this week on a tour of inspection. The Norway Light Infantry, Co. D., Capt. John F. Fitz, were very carefully inspected, and the State property under their charge thoroughly examined. The General pronounced himself very well pleased with the general condition of men and property.

Norway pond froze over for the first time about one week ago, but no skating yet excepting in the coves.

Our shoe factory is now running on full time with a full complement of help.

Bark comes to the tannery on the new Railroad, and passenger trains are expected next week. The severe cold weather of late has delayed the completion of the depot.

The teachers of our High School have opened an evening school, for such young people as are employed during the day. They give their services *free,* and invite in all who wish to give their attention to study. They meet twice a week, on Monday and Friday evenings. More study and less dancing by many of our young people would undoubtedly show better results in the future.

The Norwegians are all ready for snow. So long as we must have cold weather for several months, they prefer to enjoy it on runners.

OXFORD, Nov. 29.—An entertainment was given at the School House Hall, Thanksgiving day evening, by the Congregational Sabbath School. The exercises consisted of music, dialogues, fairy scenes, Cinderella, &c. The several parts were well sustained and very much enjoyed by the goodly audience present.

Our Dramatic Club gave the drama, "Still Waters Run Deep," last Friday evening. On account of the storm there was only a small audience, and the play was repeated on Saturday evening with better success. The parts were well taken and everything passed off pleasantly.

After a vacation of two weeks our village schools are to commence next Monday, under the instruction of the former teachers, Mr. Potter, and Misses Greggs and Pendexter.

There are quite a number of cases of Measles in the village, but all are doing well.

PARIS.—Wednesday evening the Unity Club gave one of its pleasant entertainments at the Academy. The evening was a "regular Unity night"—dark and rainy—yet a good number was in attendance. There were literary exercises consisting of readings by Misses Giles and Mellen, and singing by the Misses Doe, the Young Quartet, and a young Mr. Horne from Norway. Oysters, coffee, cake and fruit, were sold, and a neat little sum was taken in for village improvement.

There will be a dancing school commencing next Friday evening, at Academy Hall, under the instruction of Mr. L. B. Weeks of Norway, to continue for twelve nights. Tuition, four dollars per couple. To commence at half-past seven prompt. All who wish to attend are requested to be present the first evening.

RUMFORD.—The children, relatives, and neighbors of John Martin and wife of Rumford, made them a surprise visit on the afternoon and evening of his seventy-fifth birth-day (Dec. 4,). Mr. Martin is one of the oldest and most respected inhabitants of this town, having in his younger days served the town as one of the selectmen, also as treasurer. He was united in marriage with Arvilla Abbott Dec. 7, 1834, making nearly 45 year of wedded life; during that time, eight children have been given them, seven of whom are living, and three of whom, with their wives and children, were present; the youngest present, John F. Martin, aged three months, being the only grandson and namesake of Mr. Martin. The other four children were unable to be present but sent their regrets. Two of Mr. Martin's brothers and one sister, also, two of his wife's brothers and one sister, together with some sixty of his neighbors and friends were present. Many beautiful and useful presents were left by friends present, and sent by friends absent, as slight tokens of the esteem in which Mr. Martin is held by his many friends. After partaking of a bountiful collation, and uniting under the leadership of Chas. A. Kimball, esq., in singing "Auld Lang Syne," the party broke up at a late hour, hoping that the host of the evening and his estimable lady may be spared to witness many returns of his birth-day anniversary.

M.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas our Heavenly Father has called our brother Melvin A. Allen away from the scenes of earth, (being the eighth link that has been severed by death from the chain of our Brotherhood) admonishes us to live through faith in His Son, that our exit from earth will be "ever with the Lord."

Resolved, That our charter wear the emblem of death thirty days, in respect to our brother, who was one of the petitioners for the charter, and had honored the many offices to which he was elected, including W. C. T. and L. D.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolves be presented to our sister, Martha Allen, our brother's widow and their son, Edgar, and a copy to the editor of the *Oxford Democrat* for publication in his paper.

WM. BICKNELL, }
LEANDER HODGDON, } Com.
F. S. IRISH. }

Crystal Wave Good Templars,
East Buckfield, Dec. 1, '79.

TERRORISM IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

TRUTH FROM AN UNEXPECTED QUARTER.

No one will accuse the Boston *Herald* of any inclination to "wave the bloody shirt," and in fact that paper has always taken pains to put the best face possible upon Southern outrages. It is pretty evident, therefore, that matters must have reached a serious state indeed, when the *Herald's* special correspondent sends such a dispatch as the following:

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 26. It will be remembered that Nix, the colored postmaster at Blackville, was shot through the delivery window recently by a Democrat named Williams. On Tuesday evening his brother was probably fatally shot at Barnwell by Barney Jeffcot. The cause assigned was Jeffcott's indignation, because of his suspicion that Nix had reported him for a violation of the revenue laws. Nix is still subjected to the greatest indignities while on duty, and informed me yesterday that he had every reason to believe that he will be killed. The United States Commissioner who examined Williams was obliged to stay in the Court House, and, at the first opportunity, to retire to Columbia for safety. A crowd of young roughs in Barnwell, Saturday night a few weeks ago, fired into a group of negroes who were doing their marketing, and killed a boy named Thomas Greene. The negroes were afraid to report or prosecute the case, and nothing has been done in the matter. The negroes complain bitterly of their treatment and the danger and indignities they undergo in Barnwell County.

THEY WILL KEEP QUIET FOR A WHILE.

[Delphi Journal.]

Democratic editors will warble no more about kicking Orth out of the house;
About sending Jeff Davis to the Senate of the United States;
About stopping the wheels of government for want of appropriations;
About the righteousness of the Yazoo murders;
About the justice of the murder of Captain Dixon;
About pensioning rebel soldiers;
About repealing the law creating the office of lieutenant-general because Sherman wouldn't jollify with a confederate soldiers' reunion;
About repealing federal election laws;
About presidential frauds;
And about various and sundry other things they have delighted to sing with regard to
"They're sad and lonely now."

—A Yankee woman recently married a Chinese laundryman, and in three days thereafter the unhappy Celestial appeared at a barber's shop and ordered his pigtail to be cut off, saying in explanation: "Too muchee yank."

—Congressman Frye says in Washington that Senator Blaine's friends will favor Chicago as the place for holding the next National Republican Convention. Mr. Frye is said to be confident that if Grant is not in the field Blaine will be nominated. There seems to be a good many other people in the country of the same opinion.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

DR. N. G. WHITE'S
PULMONARY
ELIXIR
— FOR —
Coughs, Colds, Croup, Asthma, Whooping Cough, And other Lung Affections.

The astonishing success of this Elixir, and the unparalleled sale, are sufficient evidence of its superiority over all other remedies of the kind, for

Lung and Throat Affections.

Legislative Notice.

To the Honorable Legislature of Maine:

THE Rumford Falls & Buckfield Railroad Company, respectfully petition your honorable body, so to amend the charter of said corporation as to authorize it to purchase the bonds of the Portland and Oxford Central Railroad Company, (of which company it is receiver), or to purchase or lease of said last named company, or of any corporation of its bond-holders which may hereafter be formed—the Railroad thereof, its franchise and property—and as in duty bound will ever pray.

I. WASHBURN, JR., President.

Portland, Nov. 29, 1879. d9 3w

1880.

Harper's Magazine.

ILLUSTRATED.

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WANTED.

10,000 DOZEN SHOVEL HANDLE BLOCKS, delivered either at our mill in Buckfield or on the cars at Canton, for which the highest market price will be paid. d1-4w

Andrews & Waldron.

Holiday Goods!

If you would see the largest and best selected stock of

HOLIDAY GOODS,

— CALL AT —

NOYES' DRUG & BOOK STORE,

CONSISTING IN PART OF

Vases, Toilet Sets, Smokers' Sets, Cigar Cases, Pipes, Toys of every description, Children's Tea Sets, Dolls of all sizes and ages. Bibles, Poems, Books, Juvenile Books, Photograph & Autograph Albums, Box Papers, Diaries, Portmonnaies, Writing Desks, Boxes, Ink Stands, Pocket Knives, and thousands of other articles.

Please call and see our stock and prices.

A. Oscar Noyes'
Drug & Book Store,
NORWAY, - MAINE.

Nov. 28, 1879. d2-1m

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov., A. D. 1879.

CHARLES Y. TUELL, Guardian of Alvah A. and Agnes G. Swift, minor children, having presented his account of guardianship of said wards for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published 3 weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county on the third Tuesday of Dec. next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy, attest:—H. C. DAVIS, Register.

S. B. Locke & Co.

WEST PARIS

Have received their Stock of

FALL & WINTER DRESS GOODS,
—WITH—
SATINS, SILKS & VELVETS
—FOR—
TRIMMINGS.
—ALSO A NEW STOCK OF—
FANCY GOODS,
including a good assortment of
Zephyr Worsteds & Knitting Yarns,
Hats & Caps,
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Ready-made Clothing,
Cloaks & Cloakings,
&c., &c.

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From which we have a large line of samples, and are prepared to take orders for

CLOTHING,

at the same prices charged in BOSTON. We also take orders for

CUSTOM CLOTHING,

made from the celebrated

SAWYER WOOLEN MILLS GOODS!

We think we can show a stock of goods which for VARIETY and EXTENT, is equal to any in the County; and we can afford—and will sell our goods as low as they can be bought elsewhere.

We have at our mill, a large stock of

Flour!

bought before the recent advance. Also

CORN, MEAL, SHORTS, &c.,

which we will sell at lowest market value.

Special Inducements

offered to CASH BUYERS.

S. B. Locke & Co.

W. Paris, Oct., 1879. 21 tf

$5 to $20 per day at home. Samples worth $5 free. Address Stinson & Co., Portland, Maine.

$5.75 A DAY MONEY. AND EXPENSES. Easily and honorably made by **AGENTS.** Address ORDWAY & CO. 49½ Exchange St., Portland, Me.

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My success in sending boots by mail without extra charge, induces me to invite all who want better boots than their locality affords, to order from me, (for men, women or children.) If the goods do not satisfy, return them.

M. G. PALMER, 230 Middle St., PORTLAND.

Remnants Cottons, Remnants Cotton Flannels, Remnants Prints, Remnants Ginghams, selling cheap at **M. M. PHINNEY'S NEW DRY GOODS STORE, NORWAY VILLAGE.**

$72 A WEEK. $12 a day at home easily made. Costly Outfit free. Address TRUE & CO., Augusta, Maine

CLOAKS.

Ladies will find a nice lot of **NEW CLOAKS, Cloakings and Cloak Trimmings, at Bottom Prices, at** *M. M. PHINNEY'S New Dry Goods Store, Norway Village.*

PHOTOGRAPHS.

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has taken rooms on

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Where he will be happy to meet his friends and the public—all who wish PHOTO'S of themselves or their friends, are invited to call during the MONTHS OF

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LESS PRICE

than ANY DRUMMER, and makes them SATISFACTORY. A large variety of

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If you wish to make a

CHRISTMAS FRESENT

of your picture, BURNHAM has a number of new styles to select from. Please bring children in the morning. Persons from a distance are requested to send me a postal card, telling me when they wish to come, as I am often away.

Address,

J. U. P. Burnham,
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Will be pleased to fill orders for any description of Dry Goods, and send by mail or express to any part of the United States. Our stock of every variety of Dry Goods is larger and more complete than any other stock in New England, and our prices will be found the very lowest of any house in the United States, special bargains being constantly offered.

Samples of any article sent by mail when requested. Orders filled promptly and satisfaction guaranteed.

R. H. WHITE & CO.,
BOSTON, MASS.

FALL AND WINTER, 1879.

Charles Mason,

BETHEL,

wishes to call the attention of the public to his large and complete Stock of

MEN'S AND BOYS'
CLOTHING!
—AND—
DRY GOODS
—AND—
GROCERIES,

which have been purchased of late, and will be sold at prices that cannot fail to please all.

—I SHALL OFFER—

EXTRA INDUCEMENTS

this Fall, to my customers of Oxford County, in

READY-MADE CLOTHING,
BOOTS AND
FANCY GOODS!

I have a good line for

MEN & BOYS.

Call and see me; I will warrant to give you goods at the very lowest prices.

FLOUR,
CORN AND MEAL,
LIME,
GRASS SEED,
ETC., ETC., ETC.,
ON HAND.

Charles Mason.

Bethel, Oct. 1879. 21-3m

FOR a Perfect Operating Wood Cook Stove, buy only the EATON COOK. It will please you in quality and price. All of the latest patterns and best assortment at MASON'S Norway, Me.

A full line of Black AND **Colored Silks, Velvets, Satins and** Dress Trimmings just **opened at M. M. PHINNEY'S New** Dry Goods Store, **NORWAY VILLAGE.**

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Advertisement!
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SAVE MONEY
— by so doing, and going to —
F. Q. ELLIOTT & CO'S,
NORWAY, MAINE,
— and buy your —
WINTER CLOTHING
— OF ALL KINDS, —
Hats, Caps, &c. &c.,

at Prices Lower than ever were offered in Oxford County. Largest Stock — Lowest Prices. Come and see if you are not well paid for your trouble.

Yours truly,

F. Q. ELLIOTT & CO.,
Norway, Maine.

☞Opposite Mason Block. n11-

Ladies in want of Bl'k or colored Cashmeres, should examine the new lot just received at M. M. **PHINNEY'S** *New Dry Goods Store,* **NORWAY VILLAGE.**

Why buy an old fashioned **Range when the Celebrated** "Falmouth Portable **Range" is offered to you, at prices** that places it within the **reach of all. All the Latest Im**provements are found **only in the FALMOUTH. Sold by** Chas. G. Mason, Mason's **Block, Norway, Me.**

Woolens for Men and Boys' wear, Shirting Flannels, and a splendid line of Housekeeping Goods, selling Cheap for Cash at M. M. PHINNEY'S New Dry Goods Store, Norway Village.

For any kind of Stove you want, for repairs for the "Farmer's Cook," "White Mountain," "Fearless" and "Dining-room Companion," for Iron and Steel, Hardware and Tinware, you will ever find the lowest prices and full stock at Chas. G. Mason's, Norway, Maine.

$66 a week in your own town. Terms and $5 outfit free. Address H. HALLETT & CO., Portland, Me.

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Dry Goods,
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Lamps,
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GROCERIES,
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A SPECIALTY OF

Fine TEAS, COFFEES, and Pure SPICES.

FLOUR,

a large stock bought before the advance.

Prices, **CHEAP for CASH!**

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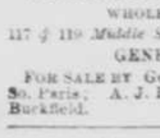
The FALMOUTH has no equal in this market. Elegant in design and finish. A splendid Baking Oven. In the consumption of Fuel, economical. The latest improved, Handsomest and most perfect Range ever offered for sale. Found only at Mason's Norway.



Correspondence of the Belfast Journal.

AN AMERICAN'S IMPRESSIONS OF GERMANY.

BY REV. DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

Circumstances, that is to say shortness of time at command, and the pressure of other duties, have prevented me from studying the condition and methods of agriculture in the German Empire sufficiently to be able to give a detailed and exhaustive account. Many of the differences between farming there and in New England are so readily noticeable that I can give an account of them at least.

First, I must say that I have not carefully studied the German system of land ownership and tenure, but I have learned enough of it to know that it is far from being as uniform as among us, and that our system prevails but little. By our system I mean, that according to which a farmer owns a piece of land more or less extensive which he manages and cultivates himself. This, as I understand the matter, is the custom to a certain extent. There is also land which is held in common by the people of a village or city. For example, the city of Gottingen, a city of about 17,000 inhabitants, has or had till lately common land, which was at certain intervals distributed among those property owners, who had rights in it. This land has lately nearly or quite passed into the possession of a wealthy citizen who has devoted himself to buying up rights, though the process has not yet been fully explained. There also prevails to a very large extent the system of renting farms. The ownership and the cultivation of the land are thus separated. The one hiring, stocks the farm and manages it according to fixed conditions, paying therefor a certain yearly sum of money. This lease usually extends over a number of years and is generally not only renewable but renewed. This is the case with small farms, and also with large estates. These large estates, ("Gut" is the German name for them) are the characteristic element in the land tenure of the country. Although their number is not very great, (I have seen the list of the number in every part of the Empire, but cannot recollect the exact figures. It is but a few thousand in all Prussia,) yet each is so extensive and the managers are necessarily so wealthy and influential, that they form a distinct class both practically and socially.

These estates are usually immense establishments, not so much in the superficial extent as in the results obtained, and the capital invested is correspondingly large. At first sight it seems strange to find a man worth, perhaps, his hundreds of thousands, with the largest share invested in the estate he manages, controlling a brewery and perhaps three or four other little manufacturing establishments, all on the same piece of ground, and yet with no more absolute title to the land than a stranger. Yet such are the economic conditions and the stability of life that, to the mutual advantage of both parties, the owner will continue to rent it to the tenant for generations, and the tenant proceeds, on his long lease and safe expectations of the future, as advantageously as if he owned the property. The title itself is quite likely royal, or vested in some noble or other, whose family lives in luxurious ease on the income of the land, which furnishes a second large income to the man who hires, stocks and manages it.

Land in Germany, however owned and managed, is worked by peasants. I fancy that this class of saciety is about as unintelligible to a New Englander, who has not been among them, as the non-existence of this class is to Germans. That a man should work with his own hands in the field and yet be what the farmer readers of the *Journal* are, and be looked on as they are in politics and society, can not be understood in Germany. In fact, they cannot get hold of the conditions of the problem. The peasant, the "Bauer" as he is called, constitutes an especial and practically a dispised element of German life. He is not necessarily poor, for there are peasants possesred of considerable wealth. He is not utterly ignorant, for some schooling is everywhere compulsory, and many are sharp business men in their sphere. He is not hindered by laws from rising to any position. The Universities are open to him as they were to Luther, who was peasant born, and after the University any career stands in form at least, open to him. I can not define what makes a "Bauer." It is not mere prejudice. There is such a class, and there I must leave the matter, only hoping that the day is far distant, if it ever comes, when we shall have peasants in America. Indeed I think it impossible. It needs the historical basis of centuries of "serfdom" to found the social class of peasants.

As an American travels in Germany, perhaps the first thing he notices is that all the land is cultivated. There are no stretches of wild land, as one will see in the United States, even close to large cities. The land inhabited for centuries, indeed long over populated has been thoroughly subdued. This is uniform throughout the whole country with very few exceptions. Not only does the Railroad train whirl the passenger through a constant succession of fields, but back miles from the the track the land is as thoroughly cared for. The exceptions are only the worthless lands, like the heath plains in some parts of North Germany. Not only is every part of the country taken possession of, but it is all, every rod of it, put to the best possible use. There are no fences between fields, no hedges. The land stretches off for miles unbroken, but by roads and rivers. The railroad itself is quite as often as not unfenced, and a field of grain reaches almost to the track. The banks of the railroad are covered with grass, which is carefully cared for, even in deep cuts. The cultivated land stretches up to the narrow highroads themselves, and sometimes fruit trees are planted along the margin, which not only shade the footpaths, but are said even to pay all the expenses of keeping the road in good repair.

One soon notices also the amount of labor which is expended on the land. Labor is cheap, and the fruits of the earth are dear, so toil is lavished without stint. I have travelled in every season of the year and I have not yet seen a weedy piece of ground in North Germany. The culture in Bavaria did not seem to be equally careful, but mile after mile of Prussia looks like a garden the year round. Manure is also, I think, freely applied. The soil is not naturally rich throughout most of Germany. In parts indeed, it is very barren, but the crop are in many cases quite large. The field laborers are to a large extent women, in fact necessarily so. When we consider that all the young men are three years in the army, and that the innumerable petty places on the railroads and elsewhere in Government employ are filled exclusively by men, we see that an undue proportion of the field work must fall on the women. I think I have seen women doing all kinds of farm work except holding the plow, and in very few cases have I noticed men at work in fields at all.

In one respect the Germans show themselves wisely economical. They have no fences, or hedges. Enclosures of any kind are very rarely to be met. Far as the eye can reach stretches one undivided field. At first it seems very odd, but one soon becomes accustomed to it, and not only approves it but admires it. The land is, however, cultivated in little rectangular patches. These are usually small, but by no means uniform in size, perhaps ranging from 4 to 8 rods in width and from 10 to 30 in length. It seems at first as if it would be working to disadvantage to cultivate such small pieces of ground, but where everything is done by patient hard labor, this objection is little felt, while the rotation of crops is much facilitated. It certainly adds variety to the landscape to see in every direction these diversified, many hued stripes and spots interchanging and intermingling.

More particularly into the nature of crops and cultivation I have not penetrated. I know that "soiling" cattle is very largely practiced, and that many of the crops have reference to green feeding. I have seen some Indian corn growing for this purpose.

Another branch of industry akin to agriculture, and yet in Europe kept distinct, is forestry. Except in the recesses of the Hartz and other mountain chains, Germany has no natural forests. All are planted and tended like orchards. Indeed, quite as much attention is paid to them as by many Maine farmers to their apple orchards. The ground is carefully cleared, the tiny trees from the nursery are set in rows, and then they are tended year after year, while the underbrush is cut away as carefully as if in a park. The first walk that I took in the woods after my arrival, I really thought I was in a park, and did not learn better till I had seen many such carefully kept forests. There are a special class of men to care for the woods, and these men are even trained in special schools of forestry. I presume it pays. In fact, my impression is that nothing is more remunerative in Germany than agriculture in general.

A HORSE'S INTELLIGENCE.

The *Lewiston Journal* says that one of the horses that usually runs with a steamer is sick, and is not on fire duty at present. When the department left the house, Monday evening at the alarm of fire, this horse was left hitched in the stable alone. The Bates street side door was open, and the old fire-horse longed for the excitement and blaze of the conflagration. He could not bear the thought of being tamely tied in the stable, while the other horses were doing duty. He broke his fastenings and in a few minutes was following the firemen. He came up with one pair of horses and found that his mate was not one of them, so he galloped down Lisbon street until he found the span in which his old mate was paired. He quietly took his position beside the other horse and remained by his side until the team reentered the stable. It is related of "Old Tige" a city horse who formerly was worked in the department, that while serving the street commissioner, on some lonely road in the suburbs, he would frequently prick up his ears and suddenly start for the city without any apparent reason. When they neared the city, the driver heard the fire alarm whistles and bells, which had reached the horse's ears when not a sound came to his. It was so evident that "Old Tige" knew what he was about that he always was allowed a free rein and to do as he pleased generally.

SALT FOR POULTRY.

The question as to whether salt is injurious to poultry has often been mooted. To get at the true facts, I have been feeding salt to all my poultry, young and old alike, and closely watching the result. I have fed it in cold mush and hot, in bran and everything else, all the spring and summer (so far), with the following result: The poultry will eat all kinds of salted food in preference to unsalted; they are better in general health; not a louse of any kind in young or old (the first year I have been able to do so), and they are all beginning to moult, many of them laying as though not moulting. Eggs are cheap now, and the hens will be ready for fall laying when the weather is cold and eggs scarce. This may or may not be the result of feeding salt largely to them, but I am compelled to believe this to be so, as are some other peculiarities. I have noticed one feature, which may not be in favor of salt—the hens have seemed to be more persistently inclined to sit, it being very difficult to break off the inclination; they sit much closer than usual. All seem voraciously fond of green food of any kind, and have eaten a large quantity of clover, grass, young corn, and other similar food. My observations lead me to the conclusion that salt is a needed condiment for all our poultry, and in all points is beneficial to them. Pigeons are excessively fond of salt in any form, and why should not our poultry be also? Such being the true status, it behooves us to consider their needs and attend to them.—*William Horne, in the Country Gentleman.*

—It has always been thought that ears of corn have an even number of rows, and in slavery times the question was discussed in Richmond, Ky., when a negro claimed that he had seen ears with an odd number of rows. His master promised him his freedom if he would find such an ear, and in the fall, when the corn was harvested, the darky appeared with a sound ear of 13 rows, and got his free papers. Recently the negro confessed that in roasting-ear time he cut out one row of grains in an ear with a sharp knife, bound the ear together again, and in gathering time knew just where to find it.

—A Georgia woman has read the Bible through this year while churning.

GRAND TRUNK R. R.

Winter Arrangement.

On and after Oct. 13, and until further notice, trains will run as follows:

GOING WEST.

Express trains for Lewiston, will leave Portland at 7.10 a. m., 12:40 and 5:10 p. m. For Quebec, Montreal and the West, leave Portland at 1:30 p. m., Lewiston at 2:02 p. m., South Paris 3:35 p. m., and Gorham at 6:00 p. m.

Local trains for Gorham leave Portland at 7:45 a. m. and 5:10 p. m., South Paris at 10:45 a. m. and 7:35 p. m.

Mixed for Island Pond leaves Gorham at 1:30 p. m.

GOING EAST.

Express trains for Portland leave Lewiston at 7:20 and 11:10 a. m., 2:02 and 4:35 p. m. For Portland, Lewiston and Boston leave Island Pond at 6:45 a.m., Gorham at 9:05 a.m. South Paris at 10:45 a. m.

Local for Portland leaves Gorham at 3:45 a. m., and South Paris at 6:05 a. m.

Mixed for Portland leaves Gorham at 10:20 a. m., South Paris at 1:30 p. m.

Mixed for Gorham leaves Island Pond at 11:00 a. m.

J. HICKSON, General Manager.

All kinds of Job Printing done at this Office.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the county of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879,

ON the petition of HIRAM TRIPP, guardian of Frank Robbins and Costello Robbins, minor heirs of Mary A. Robbins, late of Hiram, in said county, deceased, praying for license to sell and convey certain real estate described in his petition on file in the Probate Office to Jesse B. Sanborn of Cornish, at an advantageous offer of eighty-nine dollars and twenty eight cents.

Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested by causing an abstract of his petition with this order thereon to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat a newspaper printed at Paris in said county that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

THE Subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, and assumed the trust of Administrator de bonis non of the estate of

SAMUEL B. LINSCOTT, late of Brownfield,

in said County, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs: he therefore requests all persons indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon to exhibit the same to

J. WARREN JOHNSON.

Nov. 18, 1879.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford and assumed the trust of Administrator of the estate of

ISAAC G. SPOFFORD, late of Rumford,

in said County deceased by giving bonds as the law directs: he therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment and those who have any demands thereon to exhibit the same to

WALDO PETTINGILL.

Nov. 18, 1879.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford and assumed the trust of Administrator of the estate of

GEORGE DECOSTER, late of Canton,

in said County deceased by giving bond as the law directs, he therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment and those who have any demands thereon to exhibit the same to

WM. K. DECOSTER.

Nov. 18, 1879.

THE Subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, and assumed the trust of Administrator of the estate of

HATTIE H. SWEETSIR, late of Paris,

in said County, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs: he therefore requests all persons who are indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

GEORGE A. WILSON.

Nov. 18, 1879.

THE subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford and assumed the trust of Administrator of the estate of

JEMIMA WEEKS, late of Porter,

in said County deceased by giving bond as the law directs: he therefore requests all persons indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment, and those who have any demands thereon to exhibit the same to

WILLIAM S. WEEKS.

Oct. 21, 1879.

THE Subscriber hereby gives public notice that he has been duly appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Oxford, and assumed the trust of Administrator of the estate of

JAMES S. STEVENS, late of Fryeburg,

in said County, deceased, by giving bond as the law directs; he therefore requests all persons indebted to the estate of said deceased to make immediate payment; and those who have any demands thereon, to exhibit the same to

JAMES A. BRICKETT.

Oct. 21, 1879.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

GEORGE P. HOOPER, guardian of William H. Hooper, minor child and heir of James H. Hooper, late of Paris, in said county, having presented his account of guardianship of said ward for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county on the third Tuesday of Dec. next at nine o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate, held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ON the petition of CHARLES A. FROST, the administrator of the estate of William H. Walton, late of Peru, in said county, deceased, praying he may be licensed and authorized to convey certain real estate described in his petition, on file in the Probate Office according to the terms of a written contract made by the said deceased in his lifetime:

Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested, by causing an abstract of his petition with this order thereon to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, a newspaper printed at Paris, in said County that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county on the third Tuesday of Dec. next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and show cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—Attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the county of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ELIASH LOVEJOY and DEMUS F. BISHOP executors on the estate of Benjamin Lovejoy, late of Peru, in said county, deceased, having presented their account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Executors give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said county, on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

Legislative Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the undersigned will present a petition to the next Legislature, of which the following is a copy:

STATE OF MAINE.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature, assembled:

THE undersigned, inhabitants of the towns of Woodstock and Paris, respectfully represent that Caleb Fuller, now a resident of Woodstock would be much better convened for schooling, town meetings and business in the town of Paris, they therefore pray that said Caleb Fuller, together with his real estate, be set off from the town of Woodstock, and annexed to the town of Paris—and as in duty bound will ever pray.

CALEB FULLER et als.

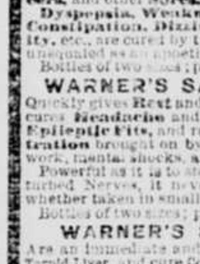
Nov. 24, 1880. d2 3w

CAUTION.

WHEREAS, my wife, FLORA M. GLOVER, is at work against my interest. I do hereby forbid any person harboring or trusting her on my account after this date

GEORGE Q. GLOVER.

Hartford, Nov. 19, 1879.



OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ON the petition of WILLIAM EVANS et al, praying for the appointment of David R. Hastings administrator on the estate of Samuel O. Evans late of Fryeburg deceased:

Ordered, That the said Petitioners give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ON the petition of JAMES A. BRICKETT, Administrator of the estate of James S. Stevens late of Fryeburg in said County deceased, praying for license to sell and convey so much of the real estate of said deceased as will produce the sum of one thousand dollars for the payment of debts and incidental charges:

Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested by causing an abstract of his petition with this order thereon to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879

ON the petition of BENJAMIN F. CAREY, Guardian of Mabel F. and Leon O. Glover, minor heirs of Charles Glover, late of Hartford in said county, deceased, praying for license to sell and convey about three and one half acres of land situate in the town of Sumner, at an advantageous offer of eighty five dollars to Thankful L. Roberts:

Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested by causing an abstract of his petition with this order thereon to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy, attest:—H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the county of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ALBERT M. AUSTIN and SHARON ROBINSON, JR., named Executors in a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of Lewis Sampson, late of Hartford in said county, deceased, having presented the same for Probate:

Ordered, That the said Executors give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the said Instrument should not be proved, approved and allowed as the last Will and Testament of said deceased.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy, attest:—H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov., A. D. 1879.

ELCY TURNER, Administratrix on the estate of Jesse Turner, late of Buckfield, in said county, deceased, having presented her account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Admix give notice to all persons interested, by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat, a newspaper printed at Paris, in said County, that they may appear at a Probate Court, to be held at Paris, on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and show cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ON the petition of AUSINA B. BROWN, widow of Robbins Brown, late of Bethel in said county, deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of her late husband:

ORDERED, That the said petitioner give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County, on the third Tuesday of Dec. next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

THOMAS H. BROWN, named executor in a certain Instrument purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Abigail Decker, late of Paris, in said county, deceased, having presented the same for Probate:

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the said Instrument should not be proved, approved and allowed as the last Will and Testament of said deceased.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy, attest:—H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879,

WILLIAM WOODSUM of Peru, executor on the estate of William B. Walton, late of Peru in said county, deceased, having presented his account of administration of the estate of said deceased for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Executor give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris, in said county on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—Attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

ON the petition of GEORGIE P. STEVENS, widow of James S. Stevens, late of Fryeburg in said county, deceased, praying for an allowance out of the personal estate of her late husband:

Ordered, That the said Petitioner give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris, that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County, on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be granted.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate, held at Paris, within and for the County of Oxford, on the third Tuesday of Nov. A. D. 1879.

JOHN WALKER, guardian of Susie E. and Alice M. Wood, minor children and heirs of Josiah Wood, late of Lovell, in said county, having presented his account of guardianship of said wards for allowance:

Ordered, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County, on the third Tuesday of Dec. next, at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.

Notice of Foreclosure.

WHEREAS, Stephen B. Gilpatrick of Hiram, in the County of Oxford, on the 15th day of February, A. D. 1875, by his deed of mortgage of that date, recorded in the Oxford Registry of Deeds, Western District, book 61, pages 559 & 70, conveyed to Samuel Wadsworth of Hiram, aforesaid, the following described real estate to wit—a certain lot of land situate in said Hiram, and bounded as follows: beginning on the road leading from the John Mason place to Stephen B. Gilpatrick's, at a stake and stones twenty-nine rods northeasterly from the stone monument in Porter and Hiram line, and running south, eleven degrees west, to a pine stump forty-two rods; thence south fifty five and a half degrees west, fourteen rods to a stake and stones; thence south, thirty-one degrees west, seventeen rods to a white pine stump; thence south, eighteen degrees east twenty rods to a stake on the shore of Trafton Pond; thence south, forty two degrees east, across an arm of said pond about eight rods to George Gilpatrick's land; thence on said Gilpatrick's land north, forty eight degrees east to the road leading to said Gilpatrick's; thence on said road and on the aforesaid Hiram road first mentioned, about seventy six rods to the place of beginning, estimated to be twenty acres more or less. Also another lot of land in said Hiram, beginning at a stake and stones at the northeast corner of Harrison Harmon's field, and runs south, about forty-six degrees east, to the road leading from the John Merrifield place to the Tripp school house; thence northwesterly on said road to a road leading from the main road to said Harmon's dwelling house; thence southerly on the east side of the last mentioned road to a corner made of stake and stones; thence easterly by a hemlock tree marked, and a fence to the first mentioned bounds; said lot containing seven acres more or less—the consideration being that said Stephen B. Gilpatrick pay the note hereafter named and indemnify said Wadsworth from all expense and responsibility in regard to said note—said note being dated at said Hiram, December 28th, 1874, for one hundred dollars, payable two years after date with interest to Joseph W. Gilpatrick, and signed by Stephen B. Gilpatrick, and Samuel Wadsworth as surety; and the said Wadsworth avers that he has paid the amount of said note to the payee thereof, and the condition of said mortgage having been broken, I the undersigned by reason thereof claim a foreclosure.

SAMUEL WADSWORTH.

Hiram, November 25th, 1879.

OXFORD, ss:—At a Court of Probate held at Paris within and for the County of Oxford on the third Tuesday of Nov., A. D. 1879.

LEWIS B. REED Guardian of Sampson Reed, a person of unsound mind, of Hartford, in said county, having presented his account of guardianship of said ward for allowance:

ORDERED, That the said Guardian give notice to all persons interested by causing a copy of this order to be published three weeks successively in the Oxford Democrat printed at Paris that they may appear at a Probate Court to be held at Paris in said County on the third Tuesday of Dec. next at 9 o'clock in the forenoon and shew cause if any they have why the same should not be allowed.

A. H. WALKER, Judge.

A true copy—attest: H. C. DAVIS, Register.